DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 471 801 FL 801 540

AUTHOR	Lawrence, Winston, Comp.
TITLE	Student Writing from NYC Programs in English for Speakers of Other Languages: September 11, 2001.
INSTITUTION	Literacy Assistance Center, New York, NY.
PUB DATE	2002-00-00
NOTE	81p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Literacy Assistance Center, 32 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Web site: http:// www.lacnyc.org.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - General (020) -- Creative Works (030)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Education; Adult Learning; Community Education; *Emotional Response; *English (Second Language); *Student Developed Materials; Violence; *Writing (Composition)
IDENTIFIERS	*New York (New York); *September 11 Terrorist Attacks 2001

ABSTRACT

This publication contains a collection of writings by New York City adult learners enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages programs. The writings focus on their feelings about and experiences with the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001. Some of the titles include: "Why?"; "Sad Feeling"; "A Day of Remembrance"; "I Want to Wake Up"; "War on America"; "A Fatal 911"; "Life After September 11th"; "How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me"; and "I Still Feel Bad." (SM)

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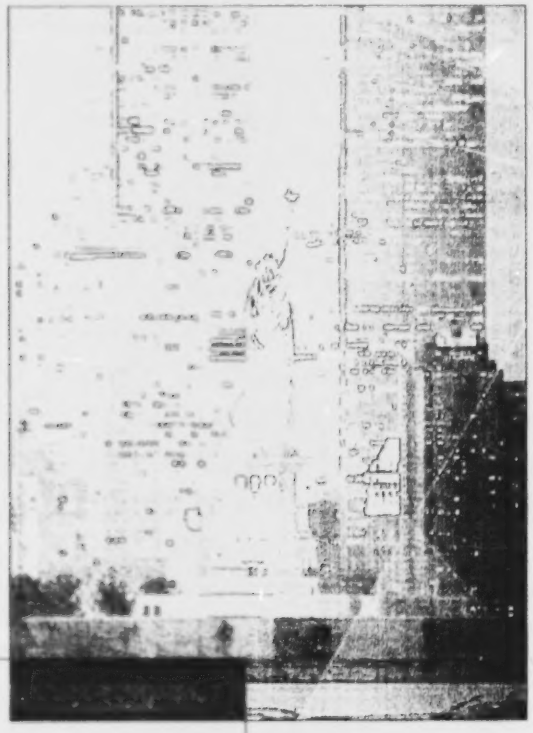
Student Writing

from NYC programs in English for Speakers of Other Languages



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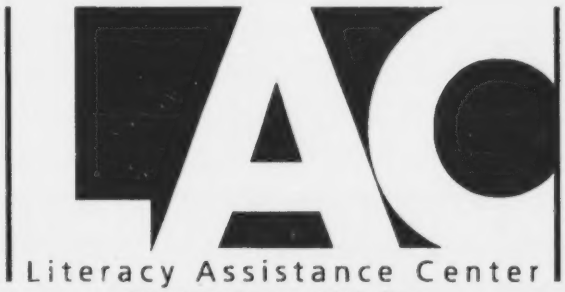
Student Writing

from NYC programs in English for Speakers of Other Languages

September 11, 2001

Special thanks to
Dr. Winston Lawrence, who gathered these pieces
Rachel Greene, who typed many of these pieces
Donald Peete, who designed the cover
Jan Gallagher, who proofed, formatted, and indexed these pages



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Why?

Why why why, my my my? Why did the plane fly and the people die. As the sun shine in the town, now tell me why the towers go down? I stick my head through the window and I saw the wind blow from door to door. I cried loudly, wayne wayne wayne trouble fall like rain. Then I ask my god if my work on earth is going to be in vain because this is no joke the whole world is in pain. Why why why, my my my. As the news travel far over yonder it make we wonder it take us closer to one another. Blows are throwing from place to place but it seems like we will never meet whomever did this face to face. My my my, why why why.

George Williams
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

Sad Feeling

On the 11th of September at 9:15 am. my daughter came and woke me up and said "turn on the television." I look at what happened to the World Trade Center and I said to myself, what had happened there. I felt so sad that innocent people had to die in such a tragedy. It make me feel like joining the army if I was a younger man to get my revenge for those innocent people.

Lelan Arthur
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

Terrorist Attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001

I was at work on September 11 when my boss came back from work and told me to look at the TV. A plane hit the World Trade Center in Manhattan. I looked at the TV and that same time I never felt the same way. It is like my whole life had been changed. I am so afraid. Now it is anthrax in the mail. We don't know when we are going to get killed. We must pray for everyone and also pray for the people who lost their loved ones in the center in Manhattan. As for me, I am praying for everyone. It will never be the same in this country.

Jacklyn Walsh
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

The Enemy Struck

It was on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. That was the worst disaster in American history. The whole country was in sadness. When the World Trade Center was struck by terrorists, it was about eight forty eight in the morning. When everyone was at work or about to get there, the enemy struck and in doing so, took the lives of so many people. It was so sad because I was on my way to work myself, going to Manhattan when this disaster took place. It was very sad to me because it could have been someone in my family on that plane too. But it felt like a part of me was struck because a lot of my friends that I have made in this country. So it pains me to see that so many of my friends have lost their loved ones in this disaster. It is sorrowful to see so much grief and hurt. It is not easy to be in their shoes. It is not a nice feeling but none-the-less God is in everything and He knows the best for our lives. I am not only saying so because I know that God will help us all in the end.

Mervyn Clement
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

Something happened.
Who made it happen?
It's on my mind all the time.
How people could be so unkind.
Wait, the thing that made me blue.
There were men, women, and children, too.
My friends, this was no fun to see.
It was experience for you and me.
They're gone without a sound.
But old people say what goes around comes
Around.

Cecil Williams
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

A Disaster

Around 8:43 a.m. I was at home having breakfast when a friend called me to ask if I knew what happened to the Twin Towers. I said no. I turned on my T.V. and only Channel two was working. The news reporter said that two airplanes crashed into the Twin Towers. It was like a movie to me. I could not believe that was real. So I called my friend who worked close to the Twin Towers and she was okay. But then she told me her daughter goes to school close by that area. She did not hear from her yet because cell phones were not working. Then I started to believe that New York was under attack. I got down on my knees and I prayed, asking the Lord to have mercy upon us and watch over us from all these evil doers.

As the day passed by, I started to hear the amount of dead people and I saw pictures of the Tower. My heart felt sore and will take a long time to heal. Terrorists changed America for life. It left children without mother and father. Also because of the tragedy there are wives without husbands and husbands without wives. Oh how sad. America must go on. God bless America.

Mary Baptiste
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

Dear Rescue team,

I know what it is like to look for survivors between those iron and rocks. I know we will all get through this tragedy. Those who are responsible for this terrorism that killed so many innocent people are going to be put to justice for what they have caused to those people. This terrorist attack is what we all will never forget. May god bless everybody.

Stay Baker
Eastern Parkway Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

World Trade Center

The eleven of September of 2001, two airplanes hit the Twin Towers. Terrorist attacked New York. It sad when I saw the building falling. I started to cry because I knew people in the building were there and still alive. I also heard my neighbors going crazy because of the tragic. A neighbor of mine worked in number one tower. Today is the six day and we still don't know where he is at. What a sad tragedy. I feel sad and hurt because a lot of people died. Be strong and be courageous their love ones go to heaven.

Edina Ruben
Central Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

World Trade Center

I was born in Jamaica. When I was 8 years old my mother moved me to New York State. The first thing I saw when I was on the plane was the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center. I was so happy to come to this country. That was 15 years ago and now I am 20 years old, and I have a child. And her name is Shakira. She was 8 months old when the terrorists crashed two planes in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The bad thing is my child will not see the World Trade Center again.

Sherine White
Central Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

I went to Manhattan for a job interview the day that the planes hit the World Trade Center. Police cars were everywhere. Someone said that a plane hit one of the buildings. I went on to my interview. When I got there everyone was watching the news on TV and filling out their applications. We were looking at the fire on the TV. A plane came by and hit the top of one building and another plane came by and hit the other building. I could not believe it. So many people were in the buildings at work, or in their offices having coffee at that time and they did not know what hit them. The buildings had collapsed, soon after the planes hit. Some people did not make it out of the buildings. All I could see was smoke. The Twin Towers were no longer there.

Barry Hodges
Central Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

September 11, 2001, two planes crash in to the Twin Towers and killed more then 5,000 people. The crash killed people on the planes, in the Twin Towers and at the Pentagon. I feel sad, mad and upset because of the crash on 9/11/2001. Many people are sick because of the crash the air is very smoky, black and smelly. A lot of people are living in shelters. Some people are living on the streets because they are homeless. There people who now have to live with friends or with family members. A lot of people are now without jobs. They cannot pay their bills and are going hungry. Some of the people are fighting with other people in the streets.

Juan Carlos Priegue
Central Learning Center
Brooklyn Public Library

September 11, 01

How could I start this? I can't think about it, but everybody is accepting this terrible reality. I had an appointment with the doctor that day. My mother was with me. We were waiting for my uncle at Queens Boro Plaza. I phoned my youngest brother at home, and he told me about this incident.

I didn't believe my ears, and I thought I was asleep. Suddenly, I remembered my eldest uncle, because he worked there. Fortunately, he had a day off. My father was working in Federal Plaza, my elder brother and younger sister were in school.

I phoned my youngest brother again, and I was eagerly waiting for any new messages he had. I was relieved that they had phoned home, and they were safe. After one hour my uncle came, and he was trying to get home. Everybody was looking at us, because we are Muslim. We took the Bx4 bus from Queens Boro Plaza and were trying to go to the Bronx. After 4 hours we got home and watched the TV. I was crying to see the pathetic scene. I prayed to God, "Please bless all of those innocent people."

After that when we went outside almost everybody was staring at us, blamed us, used slang language, was scared of us, and some familiar people didn't say hello. I felt alone and filled with sorrow. I cried and prayed to God,

"Please save everybody and bring peace everywhere."

Zenia Afroz
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 2
Teacher: Joan Siff

Tuesday, September 11, 2001. I woke up at 6:30 A.M. I help my teacher every morning to set up the tables, chairs, clean the board. Everybody sat down, and listened to the teacher. Later, after one hour of class, the door was opened, the pastor brought the TV and plugged it in. He said to us "Something bad happened. I think it was an explosion near the World Trade Center" and then he turned on the TV. We couldn't see it clearly. At that moment nobody knew anything, but we talked to each other and asked, what happened. Something serious was going on. I remember this word "Unconfirmed."

There was an unconfirmed report of a hijacked American Airlines 767 plane from Boston. It is possible there were passengers on board, they said. There was confusion about what was going on. Everybody asked. Nobody knew.

We cried for hours, days, weeks, and let me tell you something. I'm still crying. TV, radio, newspapers, had the impact news. The news changed our life forever. The news that sent a lot of people to the hospitals. The news that buried many, many people. Innocent people, good people, hard working people, and responsible people. They didn't deserve that. For me it's a nightmare, believe me. Many people feared that this might happen again. The U.S. sent soldiers to Afganistan. My son was prepared when the military called him. I pray to God that nothing bad will happen, I pray for those people that are suffering the loss of their family. My heart is with them. I remember that Prokopi (another student) was crying because some of his family worked in the World Trade Center.

When my husband came to school, we looked at each other and cried. I saw people running across the street, the ambulances, the police, it looked like a movie. Everybody was confused. God bless all of you. God Bless America, Land of the Free, Home of the Brave. America won't forget.

Margarita Lugo
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 2
Teacher: Joan Siff

About September 11th, 2001

I am Muslim, and I am from Bangladesh. Now I am going to express myself about how much the September 11th incident hurt me. I can't imagine how I got through that day. I was so anxious about my husband, brother, and children. At last they came back home.

My heart is filled with sorrow, because some parents lost their son or daughter, some children lost their parents, some wives lost their husbands, some husbands lost their wives, and some friends were lost also. I always pray to God for all of those innocent people. I pray for the forgiveness of their souls.

I saw that picture of destruction on the TV. I also read the newspaper, and received some messages like some Muslim women were harassed by people of other religions. At that time to go outside was intolerable for me. There was not a single person who didn't look around me. Almost everybody blamed me, used street language, called me crazy. Some Muslim women avoided wearing scarves.

Right now this discrimination is still going on. I don't know when this insufferable situation will calm down and when peace will be everywhere.

Monoara Begum
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 2
Teacher: Joan Siff

The Tragedy

(excerpted from a longer piece)

The day of September 11th I was in my house. That day I didn't go to class, because one of my friends came to my house to help me with some paper work. While we were in the kitchen my daughter was watching TV in the living room. At that moment the phone rang and it was another other friend who called me and told me to put on the news on channel 41. I changed the channel and right at that moment I saw the flame on one of the towers. That moment was shocking because it is so dramatic when you see everybody running in different directions. Everybody was so scared and at that moment people didn't know where to run. While we were watching the news another plane crashed into the other tower. That was more terrible. When I saw that, I got so nervous but I kept watching the news. Many people were flying through the windows! By that time everyone was wild, and about fifteen minutes later the first tower collapsed and a few minutes later the other tower

collapsed too. A lady who works for channel 41 got too close to the scene, and when the two towers collapsed she told the cameraman to take more pictures of the scenes, but because the smoke was so dense they ran to the van and moved to another side and tried to take more pictures. It was impossible. They lost each other. The lady screamed to the boys, but she couldn't find them. She started to cry, and swallow the smoke. She felt so bad. They were looking for her too, and when they found each other they all got so happy. At that moment, the paramedics had to treat her because of the smoke, but even so they kept working until quite late that day. . . .

I still feel nervous when I talk about that day. Unfortunately we have to continue with our lives but we have to be careful about the terrorism, because that problem is going to be with us for a long time. You need a lot of courage to deal with the problem, but you have to do it for your family. You have to give them support and try to live a normal life. I know many people in different countries who are so disappointed with the terrorism, and many others are sick when I call them. I've told everyone to pray and read the Bible as many times as they can. Some of them have to take medicine to be calm, others have to talk to their family more frequently. My advice to everyone is to try to be more polite with everybody, and try to be with your family more and you are going to feel better. Pray as much as you can. This is the only thing that's going to help you and the world.

Rafaela Soto
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 2
Teacher: Joan Siff

Composition About September 11th

I think it is very hard to describe this tragedy, especially for those persons who lost a member of a family, or a close friend. On that unforgettable date, I left home before 9:00 A.M. When I was starting my car I turned the radio on. When I heard about the first plane hitting one of the towers, at the beginning I thought it was an accident but a few minutes later, I realized it was an attack by terrorists. At 9:30 A.M. I would have had an interview for a job, but unfortunately because of the incident the interview was changed.

One of the most dramatic things, that I'll never forget, was when people jumped from the tower; because they preferred to die dismembered instead of burned. It was really very upsetting to watch something like that. I felt so bad about

it. Everyone at home was crying, I never knew those people, but I felt like they were part of my family. It's very sad, that in this world there are terrorists that dare to assassinate so many innocent people.

Federico Valera
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 2
Teacher: Joan Siff

The terrorist attack on America that happened here in New York on September 11th, 2001 was a terrible, serious tragedy. I feel very sorry for all the people who lost their lives and for the families who lost their loved ones in this terrible attack. I'm still in shock and still can't believe what had happened here.

I believe what President Bush is doing is the right thing. I'm glad he is trying to find the terrorists who committed this terrible act. I still feel that it will take years until this happens, and feel there may be other attacks on America that we must worry about and be prepared for in the future.

My life has only changed in fear of what will happen next here in New York. Since the September 11th terrorist attack, I don't like what I see and hear on the news every day. I'm afraid of what will happen next. I am afraid to go out or travel anywhere. I am especially afraid to travel on an airplane to visit my relatives in Yugoslavia. Because of what has happened, I don't feel safe.

I fear for my son's safety in school every day since the terrorist attack. The war against terrorists hasn't stopped the terrorists. I still fear what might happen next because of the Anthrax in the mail and the young boy who flew the plane into the building in Florida. I want to feel safe again. I want to feel secure about going on a plane. I want life to be like it was before.

Vasvije Cenovski
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

I was at work on September 11, 2001. By 9:56, it was on the TV that the World Trade Center had been attacked. Right away, I tried to call my house to find out if my children were home from school. But there was no way that I could get through the line. About thirty minutes later, I could not believe what I was seeing on TV. It was horrible. I was filled with fear. It was like a dream.

It reminded me of the war in my country, Liberia. In 1992, a plane bombed my country and killed many people. I became more horrified.

When I came home that day, my children began to ask me questions in fear and sorrow. My son asked, "If the plane was to come and bomb again, where would we go?" "The firemen and policemen are our best friends, but today, so many of them died. Who will be there for us in case of anything?" said my daughter. I told them, "God will take care."

For me, it was a sad day. I cried the whole night. I could not sleep.

I feel sorry for the people who lost their loved ones. May God comfort them. I know that all of our firemen and policemen are resting with the Lord along with all the other people who died with them that day.

Mercy Martis
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 was a very black day for the U.S.A.

That day I watched T.V. from 9:00 a.m. I saw how the two "World Trade Center" buildings were destroyed and collapsed from two acts of terrorism.

Personally, I was affected and sad. Thousands of people died. Thousands of families were destroyed morally.

I worked that day in the afternoon. But I did not work for two weeks. People did not go to restaurants.

I sought other jobs.

I hope there won't be any more terrorism.

Luis Caceres
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

The day of September 11, 2001 will never be forgotten. Generation after generation will remember it. Actually, the terrorism didn't start on September 11. It started a long time ago, but the world ignored it. You can compare Nazism in World War II with this terrorism.

Terrorism is like cancer. If you ignore it, it will spread all over. The terrorists see that they are not punished, so they continue. Human life is nothing to them. They don't care about anyone's life. When we look back, years ago they didn't have the guts to do what they are doing today.

Libya was one of the leading countries that support, develop and encourage terrorism, but when the former president of the U.S.A., Mr. Ronald Reagan, bombed them with big guns they stopped with the terrorism. A few years ago, the same terrorist Bin Laden destroyed the American Embassy in Kenya. There were more than 200 dead, and he wasn't punished, so he continued. A few months ago in Yemen he attacked again. That was a navy ship. There were ten sailors dead, and again he was not punished.

What we learned from this is that if you do not fight back against terrorism, and give up, you give them the power to continue and to make more and more terror around the world.

Sidi
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

This day was sad. All the people were sad. I thought, "How long before things continue the same as before?"

I am not from this country. Nevertheless, I felt very, very sad and concerned because the situation is difficult for everybody.

I felt, how could I help? My family and I were well, but that's just not enough. Looking around me everything is so bad. The people, the mail, the government, the countries, everybody is afraid. Me too.

The time is past, but I'll always remember this day. It is a wound that is never closed. I can't do anything, only pray and hope that it never happens again.

Teresa Castro
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

The tragedy, which happened in the World Trade Center, was a disaster for everyone living in this country. People from all over the world were shocked to see the towers crumble. Many people lost their lives after the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

The most unbelievable outcome was that people all over the country became united and friendly with one another. Everyone became like a big family after all the pain and suffering. The September 11th attacks will be a memorable day for those who lost loved ones as well as those who simply watched the attacks on the news. Even though some people were not personally affected, everyone in the country felt sorrow. Everyone worked as a team and tried their best to help the situation in the best way they could.

On September 11th I got up like every other morning to go to school. I still cannot believe something like that could happen out of nowhere, in the most beautiful country in the world.

Glaucia Foundoulakis
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

A terrible tragedy happened to America on 9/11 but it is not the first time in the world. First of all you have the Palestinian people who were fighting for 20 years and they have a hard life.

The problem is too much fighting in the world and no negotiating. Everybody wants to go to the top level to get the power and do whatever they want to do. This point is, America is the first power in the world and they try to put America down.

I feel especially bad and sad to see what happened to America. My sister was working in the Twin Towers she could have lost her life, but thank God it didn't happen. It was hard for me when the tragedy happened. I tried to call my sister and I couldn't speak to her because the line was busy. I knew she worked there. I care about my sister and I knew she was in danger and that scared me. I hope everything stops one day. There will be no more traumas for us to suffer through.

Maxine Derenoncourt
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

Tuesday, September 11th, 2001
The black day for the United States and the World

When I came back from my work, I sat down in my living room with my little daughter and I was seeing the program on television. Then the reporters started to give information that there was an accident, an airplane crashed into one of the twin towers. There was a lot of smoke. Some minutes later another airplane crashed into the other twin tower.

It was about terrorism. It looked like people were running everywhere. The twin towers continued to burn; a lot of people jumped from the windows. They signaled for help with their clothing. Some of the people threw themselves from the windows. The towers came down one at a time. My company closed for two days.

In my church, we prayed for all the people who died, and their families. The whole world was affected by the accident. At the same time an airplane crashed in the Pentagon in Washington, and another airplane, crashed in to a mountain in Pennsylvania.

Max Chuva
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

A Day of Remembrance

September 11 - I remember that day. I woke up to get ready to go to the college. That morning the sun was shining full in the sky. I was in the classroom when I heard the news that the Twin Towers in the World Trade Center had collapsed. I was in shock. All the students left the class. I went back home and turned on the TV. I watched and saw that there were flames and smoke which filled a hole where the Twin Towers once stood proud. There were many dead people and many people injured. Ambulances, police, firemen, and heroes were there and helped the people.

I turned off the TV and drove the car to Bay Street. There I saw a live view of the disaster around Battery Park City. I was a proud businessman in this zone area. I thought for a few minutes "Oh God, there I lost my V.I.P. clients and business as well." I was scared and I came back home, and I prayed for those who had lost their lives and the families who will never see their faces again. God bless America!

Mohamad Hafeez
Adult Learning Center
College of Staten Island (CUNY)

So many people met with tragedy. My store customer's son was killed that day. He was at a meeting.

After four months his mother came. She didn't feel good. When I did her nails, she looked sad.

I think September 11th was a very big event in my life.

Hyemi Park
Adult Learning Center

College of Staten Island (CUNY)September 11, 2001
I Want to Wake Up

(excerpt from a longer piece)

My sister-in-law called me on Monday night; to ask if I could take her daughters to school, the next day because she had to work the elections. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, I woke up at 6:00 a.m. and got everything ready to take my daughter to school. We left home at 7:30, I dropped her at school, and then I went to my sister-in-law's house to pick up my nieces and take them to school. I left them at school at 8:35 am and then I went to the supermarket to buy items for dinner.

After that I went to take the bus to go back home. Then a woman came and asked me "Do you know what is happening at the Twin Towers?" I responded "No." She then told me that a plane had crashed into the Towers. They said it was terrorists. She was really nervous. We got into the bus and I thought : "This bus has to pass through a place where I can see the Towers". So I was looking out the window and I saw a lot of smoke coming from

Manhattan. I thought, "that smoke can't be from the Twin Towers." But when we got to Queens Boulevard I saw the Tower both of them surrounded by smoke. I thought "My God how are the firefighters going to stop the fire? When they stop the fire there's going to be a black hole in the middle of the Towers." I was looking at the Towers then I closed my eyes and I thought, "I'm sleeping, this is a nightmare I have to wake up". I opened my eyes, the same image was there, I thought "please, please God, make me wake up". But I wasn't sleeping. It was really a nightmare.

In the front seat of the bus there was a Chinese couple. They were commenting something in their language, their faces were pale. Next to them there was a guy listening to his CD player, he didn't know anything since he was looking at the bus floor. Most people were looking at the Twin Towers, but nobody said

anything. Then tears started to fall down my cheeks. This guy looked at me and then behind me he saw the Towers, he stood up and said "Oh shit, what's that?" I turned to continue looking at the Towers and then it happened. The first Tower started to fall down, it was like in slow motion, people started hollering. "No, No" "Oh God no". I couldn't say a word, more tears were rolling over my face. The guy turned the CD player on radio and then he said, "shit the whole tower collapsed". Then chills ran through my body. I thought, "God how many bombs did they (terrorists) put to make the Tower collapse? How easy was it for them to do that?" I thought that because I didn't know anything, I was only watching. . . .

I couldn't sleep well for weeks. I had nightmares of earthquakes. Sometimes when I close my eyes I can see the first Tower collapsing, but in slow motion. I still feel like I'm in a nightmare and I'm worried about more terrorist attacks. I want to wake up, please I don't want more nightmares.

Aida Juarez
Adult Learning Center
LaGuardia Community College (CUNY)
Teacher: Ellen Quish

September 11

My name is Fatema Begum. I came from Bangladesh on September 4, 2001. I came to America 1 week before the World Trade Center fell down. I was so afraid.

On September 11 my husband was working near the Twin Towers. He is a general contractor. My friend called me and told me that 15 minutes ago the World Trade Center fell down. At that time I opened my T.V. and watched it. I did not think: Now what can I do? I called my husband but his cell phone did not work. Then I started crying. After four hours my phone rang. I received a phone call. My husband told me "Don't worry, I am well. I ran away to a safe place."

This disaster affected the economy. The world was affected, not only America. It looked like a religious war. Many people were dead and many people lost their relatives. The Twin Towers were a world business center. Now, every country's businesses are slow. Many people lost their jobs.

Terrorists are enemies for all countries. I do not like them. We should kill them.

Fatema Begum
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 7
Teacher: Toby Fishman

September 11, 2001

I was in Bangladesh when the World Trade Center fell down. My husband was also with me. He in a Bangladeshi American. Our family mostly depends on him. That morning we woke up like other days. We lived in a village. There are no newspaper deliveries everyday. My younger brother said to us that the WTC fell down. He heard it from someone. When we heard this happened, I thought it was a dream. We could not believe it. My brother went to the maintown and bought a newspaper. At last we believed this event and we were so surprised and upset.

We heard many rumors in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi newspapers published so many stories about Bangladeshi Americans relating to jobs and religion. Example: We heard many Bangladeshi taxi drivers were killed. Many Bangladeshi were beaten by Americans because they looked like Muslims. My husband was afraid to return to America but there were no suitable jobs in Bangladesh for him to support his family. At last he came back to America.

I think September 11affected so much in Bangladesh, like the development of the country. The Bangladeshi economy mostly depends on garments. Many workers (most of the women) lost their jobs after September 11. They suffer now because they lost their jobs.

American people are giving so much attention to the WTC tragedy. I think, also they should give their attention to the developing countries like Bangladesh which mostly depend on rich countries like America.

Afroza Khatun
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 7
Teacher: Toby Fishman

September 11th

September 11th. It was Tuesday morning when suddenly I saw paper, dust, and smoke covering the sky. I decided to listen to the news. I was shocked to hear that the Twin Towers were under attack. The moment I heard this news I began feeling uncomfortable about the Twin Towers. They played a great role in history. They made most of the business in the whole world. When the Towers collapsed the economy. Of the U.S.A. also collapsed. We must keep a memory of how sad it was and how our people suffered on this day.

Ayesha Siddika
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult & Continuing Education, Region 7
Teacher: Toby Fishman

Alert 9-11 in New York City

Something disastrous has happened in this city
where taxi cabs, trains, and planes have been stopped
and all the authorities of the city have met together
to rescue people from the buildings that have been destroyed.

People on the street are walking desperately
for fear another building will collapse
Then the radio station and TV news informed us
that those two Wonders of the World were knocked down.

Everybody questioned, who did all that?
The destruction of New York City, and the people afraid
Obligating the city to close the streets, airlines, all the borders
to solve this big problem in the best way they can.

Smoke and ashes only leftover on the streets
of the beautiful Towers that were the best detail
that made New York city a nice, famous and commercial city
to show the world that it is the first in international events.

I don't blame anybody about what happened here
I only want to make a simple commentary about the disaster
writing about this terrible act in the form of poetry
and telling everybody that I will never, ever forget New York City.

I have also prayed to God
for the people who suffered so much in this accident,
and I trust in the doctors and nurses of the hospital and clinics
to do the best work that they have ever done before.

Hugo Tito Sarango
Steinway Adult Learning Center
Queens Borough Public Library
Teacher: Andy Parker

Twin Towers

!
;
:
?

TWINS DO YOU SAY

BUT IT ISN'T SO.

YOU WERE NOT BUILT

IN ONE DAY.

AND YOU DO WORK

EVERY DAY. . .

THE VISITORS FOR YOU

ALWAYS WAIT.

THE NEWS IS

THROUGH THE SPACE

TRANSMITTING.

AS TWO RAINDROPS

YOU LOOK TO

EACH OTHER

TO ALL THE PEOPLE

PROUDLY YOU BRING:

THE HOPE, THE PEACE,

AND THE GOODNESS.

ALWAYS FOR THEM

YOU THINK . . .

ALWAYS FOR THEM

YOU WORK . . .

Prenjo Imeraj
Steinway Adult Learning Center
Queens Borough Public Library
(written one month before the attack)

Reflections on the World Trade Center Incident

I wasn't surprised about the 9/11 attack because I expected something like that. Of course all my family were very angry about that, but we weren't scared! Thanks to Mayor Guiliani measures, we didn't feel any inconvenience because my family is living in Brooklyn and it happened in Manhattan. But we are so sorry about the thousands of innocent people who were killed and injured in this terrible and unfair attack.

After reading the newspapers, I think that the American government made a lot of mistakes. Osama Bin Laden was promoted for the CIA's money when Afganistan fought against the U.S.S.R.

Secondly, USA never required some Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt etc. for democratic systems but only Egypt cost American's taxpayers two billion dollars a year.

I think the most important goal for the terrorists is to cause Americans to panic, to scare us. But they will never reach that goal!

Yuriy Vernikov
BEGIN 82

Reflections on the World Trade Center Incident

It was a black day for the whole population of America. It's a day that will always be stuck in my memory. This time terrorism struck the World Trade Center. It was the biggest tragedy in America and the whole world.

Those terrorist acts September eleventh caused pain, hatred, and also astonishment. A few people that lived in the caves of Afghanistan were able to shake the whole world. Those moments changed the whole future. Feelings of fear and insecurity filled the innocent people that lived through these painful events.

I asked myself. How can there exist so much hatred for a country like America, a country that cares for so many immigrants? None of us wants its existence but terrorism is still among us. We were born to live a peaceful life without war, without blood shed, without destruction. We want life and peace.

Fatmira Mino
BEGIN 82

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My Feelings on the World Trade Center Attack

September 11, 2001 was the most terrible day of my life in American history.

Tuesday seemed to me like a common day. Suddenly around nine in the morning, I heard people talking about what happened at the World Trade Center, but I didn't pay any attention until one of my friends at work came running to me to tell me that two planes had destroyed the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center. As a result, everybody went home walking. When I got home, I turned on the television. My kids were so scared, my little son cried. In general, we felt sad and upset.

It was really bad what happened to the beautiful Twin Towers at the World Trade Center.

Sabah Lamrini
BEGIN 82

World Trade Center Collapse of the Twin Towers

On September 11, 2001 a terrible attack happened at the World Trade Center. My family and I were shocked and sad, when we heard the news on the radio about the terrible attack. I couldn't believe my ears at that moment. This couldn't be happening in America. That was impossible.

I turned on my television immediately. All the channels were unavailable and the only one channel that was on was a Spanish channel. I didn't know that the reporters were saying but my eyes were glued to the scene as a jet was flying toward the World Trade Center. It flew into the Twin Towers.

I watched as people were running down the streets. People were screaming. Sirens were heard everywhere. Also, there were bodies of people who jumped off the building, lying on the ground. Everything was confusing. Then, terrified high-pitched scream rang out.

Another plane was flying toward the second tower. There were more dead bodies on the street. At the same time, the air was filled with smoke and dust. Both towers had collapsed.

I was worried about my friend's safety. He works on Wall Street. And his company is near the Twin Towers. I tried to call him but there was no voice on the phone. This time was very difficult for everyone. I was feeling scared that anything could have happened at that time.

My eyes were tearing for those people who were harmed or died on that day, and my heart was broken for the Twin Towers. I will ever have the memory of those firefighters and police officers who saved the lives of other people in the Twin Towers.

Choi Ling Mui
BEGIN 82

How the Attack of the World Trade Center Affected Me

I was working in Manhattan when the building at the World Trade Center collapsed. It affected me when I saw the explosion. I saw some people jump off the building. It also affected my job because most of the envelope I printed were sent to Morgan Stanley in the Twin Tower.

Since that date September 11, I haven't found a job because most of the jobs that I did came from the World Trade Center. I don't want to take the train, because I think something is going to happen.

Alfredo Arroyo
BEGIN 82

The Terrorist in N.Y.C.
September 11, 2001

This day was a day terrible, nothing didn't thinking and nothing imagined. It was going to pass, the terrorists to got to destruction the Towers twins, these were very important, in there had all rate of exchange world, their names were "The World Trade Center," the people to appreciated and enjoy looking these building, everybody knew these great place.

It was a great impact and something horrible, many people were dead for burns, for the glasses cut or for the buildings at the fall.

I remember, I was working when I listened to the radio the news, for me was something incredible. It was one change the life very sad, we live always with afraid.

And there began the war, State United meet Middle East.

Now nothing to be even, for the anthrax the contamination and the continue bad news.

Porfiria
Adult Learning Center
City College (CUNY)
Teacher: Jonathan Bissell

Twin Towers

The thing that happened at 9/11 is something that got to our hearts. The happenings were very terrible. I received a call that told me that I should turn on the television to see the news. Then when I turned the television on, I saw one tower collapse. A while later, I saw the second tower collapse. At that moment I felt very nervous because my kids weren't home and my mother was in the hospital. After that, around 5 P.M., I received another call. This time they told me that four of my friends were missing. They were working in a restaurant in the first tower on the 107 floor. Until this day my friends have not appeared. I feel very sad for the family and kids of my friends. Six months later my friend's family had a special mass remembering them and what they represented.

Normo Urgiles
Adult Learning Center
City College (CUNY)
Teacher: Jonathan Bissell

Terrorists Attack America

On September 11, 2001, the World Trade Center was hit by two jetliners filled with fuel and passengers. The crash caused lots of thick black smoke to spread all over the place. At first, many people thought it was an accident but when another plane hit the other tower, people realized that it was an attack on America by terrorists. They also said that it was a terrorist plan to kill lots of people in the World Trade Center. Both towers of the World Trade Center collapsed within an hour. Thousands of people were cremated in the huge fire that broke out as a result of the attack.

The whole thing was seen on TV for several weeks. It was the first time that I ever saw a plane crash into a building. It was a sad day for New Yorkers and the whole country. People from all over the world worked in the buildings doing all types of jobs.

Later on in the same day we heard that the Pentagon was hit by another plane. It was reported that over two hundred people died in that attack. People said that the terrorists wanted to kill the President of the United States. In Pennsylvania another plane also crashed. People say that it was on its way to the White House but crashed before reaching there.

Over five thousand people have died or are missing in the World Trade Center disaster. There were nineteen hijackers and they died too. It is estimated that it will

cost millions of dollars to replace the World Trade Center. The disaster has also affected the economy because many businesses have been destroyed and thousands of workers are without jobs. Hundreds of firefighters and other emergency workers also lost their lives trying to save people from the buildings.

Bobby Persaud
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Attack on America

On the morning of September 11, 2001, two jet planes crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. It happened around nine o' clock. The towers were hit by the plane the terrorist hijacked on American soil. Thousands of people died in the attack and also many firefighters and emergency workers who went to help.

This is a tragedy for the people of America. It will take a long time for America to get back on its feet and recover from the attack. Many families lost their loved ones and friends. Many organizations have donated money for the victims. President Bush asked other countries to join America to fight terrorism around the world. America is now at war with Afghanistan trying to catch the terrorist leader, Osama Bin Laden.

Kenneth Evelyn
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Terrorists Attack

On September 11, 201, terrorists hijacked four American planes and used two of them to attack the twin towers of the World Trade Center and brought them down. Nobody believed that the buildings would come down. At the same time that the World Trade Center was being attacked, the same thing was happening in the Pentagon in Washington D.C. A fourth plane was brought down in Pennsylvania.

This happened at about nine o' clock in the morning. I believe that if the planes had struck at ten o' clock, more people would have died because some people said that they were on their way to work when they heard the news. About fifty thousand people worked at the World Trade Center and several hundred people also work at the Pentagon. No one knows exactly how many people were killed in the

collapse of the twin towers of the World Trade Center but it is estimated that over five thousand people lost their lives in that disaster.

All the businesses were destroyed putting thousands of people out of work. Hundreds of rescue workers also died trying to save people. Rescue workers are still searching in the rubble looking for more bodies. They are now down to ground level and are still discovering bodies. Last week two more bodies were discovered. One was a firefighter's body. When the body of a firefighter or police is found, it is draped in the American flag before it is removed from the site.

A couple of cars covered in dust have been discovered intact under the rubble. The mayor said that it would take up to a year to clean up the debris from the disaster.

Winston Shim
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Terrorist Attack

On September 11, 2001 terrorist attacked the World Trade Center. They flew two planes into the twin towers and killed thousands of people. This evil action made me furious. I have just come to America and that was not a good experience for me. I must say that destroying the World Trade Center made America scared but has not taken away America's pride.

The disaster has affected America and the world including my country Dominica. It has created job shortage in my country. Two banks have closed, putting people out of jobs. The President says America will make the terrorists pay. I agree that they should pay. America should attack their hospitals, airports, and schools. America must be watchful because I don't think the terrorists threat is over.

Germain Stafford
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Terrorist Attack

I was on my way to work when I heard that a passenger jet had crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. I said to myself, "This must be an accident." I was sorry for the people on the jet. When I got to work, I saw Amy my co-worker crying. She asked me if I heard what had happened in Manhattan. Then she informed me that another jet had crashed into the other tower. People were

saying that it was an attack on the country. I could not believe that something like this could happen in the United States.

I believe that if people were trying to attack the country they would have done it in a different way. I think that only people with hatred in their hearts could sit and think of such a wicked act. I can't understand how these people who pray all day could go out and kill people and themselves. We send our children to school to read and write and they send theirs to learn to hate and kill.

Ionie Gray
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

The World Trade Center

The disaster at the World Trade Center was on September 11, 2001. I saw the World Trade Center twin towers go down after being struck by the planes. I saw people on fire jumping out of the windows. I also saw firemen and police officers trying to help the people to safety.

Many people did not know what had happened. They thought it was an accident. After the planes hit the buildings, the people panicked when they saw the towers falling. Some people were injured as they tried to escape.

I can't believe the buildings fell down because they were so tall. They were one hundred and ten stories tall. In 1969 I worked on the World Trade Center building. I worked on the 86th floor. I worked there from 1969 to May 8th, 1978. Then I went to building 7 in 1981. I worked in building 7 for three years before leaving to work for another company.

I have sympathy for the people who died on September 11th. I pray for them and their children. I knew two of the firemen who died. They worked at the firehouse in Coop City in the Bronx.

John Daniels
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Terrorists Attack the U.S.

I was at work that morning, sitting at the kitchen table with my employer and her daughter, when her husband rushed into the kitchen and turned on the television and said, "Something is going on." At that time the first building of the World Trade

Center was on fire. As we continued to watch the burning tower we saw another plane coming towards the other tower and straight into the building it went.

At that moment, I could not explain how I felt. All I could remember was that my daughter was expected to be at school in the City that morning at about 9:30. I tried to call her before she left for school, but the line was busy. I was very worried that if she got into the City, what next could happen. I called and called until she answered. She was just about to leave the house for school. I told her not to leave the house that day because something terrible was happening in the City, and that she should call the school to let them know what was happening.

As the day went by, my employers were running around taking care of their business. They did not show any concern about how I was to get home. Finally, at about 3 o' clock, they told me that I could go home. I was a little upset because lots of people were rushing home to take care of their family. When I finally got home by train, I was so stressed out. I did not lose anyone at the World Trade Center, but I felt as if those people who had lost their lives, were my family.

Jenieve Grant
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

War On America

When I was young, I heard some adults talking about war in America. It was only a story to me. Later I left Jamaica and came to New York. Months went by and then one morning on September 11th, 2001, I turned on the television and heard that terrorists had attacked America. They hijacked four planes with passengers. I heard on the news that the planes headed for the World Trade Center. Many people were in the building when the planes stuck. Many people were crying and shouting. Thousands died in the disaster. To me that is like war.

Three days later, the President of the United States came on television and started to talk to the people. He said everyone must help the police and soldiers with the security of the country. This is an attack on America.

Kevin Davis
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Terrorist Attack

September 11, 2001 was Primary Election Day in New York City. I got dressed and went to work. My plan was to go and vote on my lunch break. I didn't know that terrorists had attacked the World Trade Center because I didn't have the radio or television on. It was not until I went outside at about 12 o' clock that I heard people at the bus stop talking as if something had happened. I didn't clearly understand what they were saying until I got home and saw the news on television. Right before my eyes I saw the World Trade Center on fire. Then I heard that terrorists had crashed planes in the World Trade Center.

Despite the news I still went to vote only to learn that the election had been cancelled. It was a good thing that I live close to the polling station. What happened to the World Trade Center has left everybody in a state of shock. Thousands are sad and in mourning because they have lost loved ones in the attack.

By the time I got back to work, the World Trade Center had come down. I watched on TV as the buildings came down with all the debris, fire, and smoke. I watched people running for their lives. I heard an EMS worker say that she was helping the wounded. She said that it was like a movie. There were many different accounts about what happened. Some eyewitnesses said that people coming out of the buildings looked like they were coming out of the grave. That's how terrible they looked.

Attacking the World Trade Center and causing so much destruction was a wicked, evil, and terrible thing for the terrorists to do. Some people will never get over what happened on September 11th. They have lost so much. It is not an easy thing to lose a loved one especially knowing that their bodies are covered up under all that debris. Only God can help us get through this difficult time.

The terrible attack has also caused a lot of people to lose their jobs. All we have to do is pray for those people and each other and stay strong.

Maudlyn Innis
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

War On America

On Tuesday morning September 11th at about nine o' clock, I was listening to the TV when I heard the announcer talking about a plane that had hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center. At first, I thought it was an accident. I got up and went to 238th Street to take the number two train to work. While I was on the train, I heard one of the passengers talking on his cell phone. I heard him say that another plane had hit the other tower. Everyone got up and said "My God! What is going on in America? The terrorists are taking over the country."

At the same time that the World Trade Center was being attacked, a plane had crashed into the Pentagon in Washington where the law-makers meet. It was a shock to many that terrorists could come from a foreign country and do all this damages in our own backyard and kill so many people. It took a few days before we knew that thousands of people died. It is not easy for the whole nation to forget what happened in the twin towers on September 11th.

Now, lots of people are not traveling by air because they are afraid to fly. It is going to take a long time before anyone feels comfortable or safe in the sky. The disaster has affected the economy because many have lost jobs and people are not shopping like they used to.

George Anderson
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Changed In America

We all come from different countries to America this great country of opportunity. In America we have the opportunity to get a good education. Your children can go to college and have a voice in the society. We all come here for the great opportunities that the country has to offer. On September all of that changed for some of us here in America.

It was a nightmare when two planes crashed into the World Trade Center and killed and injured so many that it was hard to believe until I saw it on TV. People were running for their lives. Some just narrowly escaped death. Many were crying for their loved ones because some went to work that morning and never got back home. How hurt and cruel that must be for them. As a result, some don't want to fly anymore and many kids are asking when their moms and dads are coming home.

Before we could overcome this, we were hit by anthrax in the mail, showing up in offices and places of business. People are now afraid to open their mail. Some places where it was found were closed down for clean up. In Washington for example, where it was found in the Senator's office, it was immediately cleaned up because he has power. The postal workers are powerless and have to work without the right equipment to protect them. I say that is not fair.

Elfreda Davis
Adult Learning Centers
New York Public Library

Haiku 1:
Morning of terror
Attack on the Pentagon
The fire's embrace

Haiku 2:
The people need peace
Firemen struggle all day
President worried

Haiku 3:
City changed by fear
Some people run in the streets
The volunteers help

ESOL 1 Class
Adult Learning Center
LaGuardia Community College
Teacher: Catherine Goosmann

9/11: A Fatal 911

It was a morning on September 11th when a rumbling sound caught my attention. Even though I was living in Colombia then, the TV turned on and the news was showing the tragedy. I stood astonished. I didn't know what to do. I took a shower after that without knowing what was happening in that moment. Without knowing how many people were dying in those few seconds. I was on my way to the university in Bogotá when my cell phone began to ring. It was a friend. She was calling me because she wanted to ask me if I had seen the catastrophe on TV. She was crying. I told her that I had, and then I asked her to calm down. We talked about five minutes, more or less.

When I got to the university, I met her in room 407 in the D tower. The little room was crowded. The black TV was on, and the volume was very high. I was entering the room when another loud noise disturbed my ears. My eyes, unconsciously, stared at the TV. I got upset again. I will never forget that image. The first tower was collapsing and people were jumping from the highest floors. I couldn't believe it the big tower that huge building was falling down and many men and women were dying in it. Not later the other one was down too. But, why were those indestructible buildings collapsing?

The news said that, suddenly, two planes crashed into the "Twins" and then, the highest floors were engulfed in flames. The reporters stayed quiet. Sometimes they dared to say a word, but after those shy and short syllables. The silence came back. Nobody knew what had happened. Nobody knew what was going on. In the classroom we looked at each other, trying to explain why. Finding out answers. Figuring out whether it had been an accident or, maybe, a world war was about to begin. Tears mingled with angry. I was talking with my friend who couldn't help but cry. She was telling me, with broken words, her brother had a job in the tower number 2 and no member of her family had talked to him. By the time she was saying me, TV was announcing that many people were trying to call their relatives. But there was no clue about him. The morning passed so quickly, when we checked our watches it was 3:00 or 4:00 pm. I can't remember exactly the hour, but I do remember one name. The name that when I was leaving the room the news mentioned with a shaking voice: We just learned who is guilty of the tragedy. Osama bin Laden. It was confirmed. It had been a terrorist attack. A few minutes later it was corroborated.

That week, TV, radio stations, newspapers and magazines broadcasted the news every single day, the whole day. The morning after the terrorist attacks another rumbling sound woke me up; this time was the phone ringing. My friend was calling me again. She was crying, this time from happiness not from sadness, because her brother called and he was alive. Many phones ringed that morning; some of it giving bad news, some of it giving good news. That morning, 9/11, was a fatal 911.

Juan Pablo Angelogianopulos
Adult Learning Center
LaGuardia Community College (CUNY)
Teacher: David A. Housel

WTC911

Fortune Society

I feel the terrorists took a piece of my heart. I feel depressed. They broke the heart of the United States.

Nancy Blanco
on how she feels about the attacks on the World Trade Center

I feel nothing. I didn't know anybody there.

Antonio Perez
on how he feels about the attack on the World Trade Center

I feel some effect because a lot of peole died in the attack at the World Trade Center.

Lenny Santos
on how he feels about the attack on the World Trade Center

I think the United Stated needs to stop the terrorism so they can't do that next time.

Lenny Santos
about what he hopes for the future

I hope they make again another World Trade Center. More big. Everybody in peace. All people united.

Nancy Blanco
about what she hopes for the future

I hope they make a new World Trade Center.

Antonio Perez
about what he hopes for the future

I feel very sad and mad today.

Ricardo Rivas
on how he feels about the attack on the WTC

I personally think that we should not say all Arabs are bad; but if there's war coming we should be prepared and don't trust none of them (I'm not saying to attack them on the street. Just be alert!) American military have to try to focus on Osama Bin Laden's secret military forces and where they are hiding. Because if America starts a war in all over their country, innocent people could die.

Roberto Cabrera
about what will happen in the future

The war is coming. The news on TV is scary. I want more security. I want peace. I want love.

Nancy Blanco
about what will happen in the future

I want unity for the future of the world.

Adalberto DeLaCruz
about what he wants for the future of the world

The president can do an economic war and cancel money here in the USA, the money of Bin Laden and the other terrorists in his family. The USA here should be on the alert.

Antonio Perez
when asked if the USA should go to war

I went to Union Square. I saw many sad people. I don't feel fine.

Leonardo Tehozol
on how he feels about the WTC attack

On September 11, the terrorists bombed the two Twin Towers. On September 24, I went to Union Square. I saw a lot of people crying. I feel sad.

Elloy Torres
on how he feels about the WTC attack

I'm Ramon Liriano. I was a volunteer on Friday at the World Trade Center serving the people, thankful for giving the service that I can. The situation was critical. Too much sadness. Too much pain and a lot of people looking for their families. Desperate and crying without stopping. When I got home, there, I can't believe that I was looking at something as tragic and full of pain. I asked God with a lot of faith and love for all those victims who lost everything...that He accompany them on their death and beyond.

Ramon Liriano
about his reaction to the WTC attack

I listened to the radio. In Spanish, they said there was an accident in the building downtown. I turned on the TV. I said, "Shit, what happened?" I was telling my wife, "Watch, you see? Oh shit!" I called Julio on the phone. "Julio, you see I have a problem downtown." Julio say, "What happened?" I say, "Something happened to the building downtown. Did you see the fire? I got to go to the court." Julio said, "Go." I said okay.

I look for the D train on Fordham Road on 145 Street. No train! D, C, B, A. All stopped. Everybody looking for taxi, bus. I called my wife on my cell phone and poof—the telephone was no good. I got the taxi and said I had to go to the court. He said no court. Everything below 59th Street is closed. I said "Okay, give me 107 and Columbus." My brother lives over there. I went there—knocked on the door. My brother opened the door. We watched TV. I saw only 1 building. I said "Before I saw 2 buildings. What happened?" My brother said "The other building fell down." "Oh, shit!" Then I saw the Pentagon. "Oh, shit!" Then the one in Pennsylvania crashed. It was incredible. I couldn't understand what happened!

I went to my house. I called Santo Domingo to my mother. Mamma's okay. My brother's okay. Mamma said, "Come here, come here." I said "No mamma, it's okay!" I'm watching TV everyday. I don't know what will happen. I look in the paper. I'm watching the news. I call my brother everyday, asking him what's happening. In my mind, I keep seeing 8 or 10 people jumping out of the windows. It's too much!

Hector Baez
recounting what he remembers of the day of the WTC attacks
as told to Arlene Mayers, tutor

The USA has much enemies like Afghanistan. Corporations give water, food, medicine, to poor countries. They use and kill many innocent people too. The USA is one of the most rich countries in the world. The USA mistreats and exploits the workers in Latin America and other poor countries. The USA should get out.

Maximo Bello
when asked why the USA is seen as an enemy around the world

What Happened To Me On September 11, 2001

It all started pretty much like any other day in September. I woke up at 5:00 a.m. like I usually do. I brushed my teeth, took a shower and went on about my business like I do every day. The routine was as follows: I went to the train station, took the train into the city, got off at the 14 Street station, went to the gym, worked out for 2 hours, and then off to school. There, my teacher told us that she heard that something happened at the World Trade Center. There after, I called my girlfriend and asked her to turn on the television. When she told me the horror of the plane crashing into the first building, I thought that maybe it was an accident. Then my teacher asked to speak to my girlfriend; and as they spoke, when the second plane crashed, and the media was informing us that this was not the only incident. They also told us that the Pentagon was hit as well. Who, could know that four hours into the day that all of history would change right in front of our eyes. Everyone in the class then tried to call some loved ones. Then I left school and started to walk towards my job. As I walked, I witnessed the most incredible thing that was ever laid upon my vision, the next building collapsed right in front of me. I was close to my store, so I decided to walk to the Williamsburg Bridge. While I was walking I thought to myself, "I've never seen so much chaos in my life." As I reached the bridge, I must have been on like 1st Street, a policeman told the people to turn back and to go over the 59th Street Bridge. Everyone was walking back uptown, but they looked as if they were in a daze. It took me six hours to walk home that day. This was to me one of the most important days in my life because these buildings were opened at the same year and month that I was born. These buildings were the biggest financial trading post in the world. The damage that was made due to this incident was so major that to this day, things aren't the same any more. With catastrophe, one thing can be said, "People seem to care for one another, for when things are as per say normal, one does not acknowledge the other."

Zsolt Szekely
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult and Continuing Education, Region 4

It's Just A Dream

Long time ago, I had a wonderful dream that took me away to an imaginary perfect world, where everything was pleasant and colorful. The sky was clear, the sun was shiny, the meadows were green with a near by blue lagoon and even the air smelled like roses.

In that world I found everything to be ideal. People were affectionate and altruistic. Every one was free and equal. Nobody ever asked, "Where are you from?" because all were the children of Adam and Eve. Thus, it was one family believes in God and lives in harmony. The children were living in a safe, secure and peaceful world that had no murder, violence or terrorism. There was only love and plenty of it.

When I first came to the United States, I was hoping to find my dream or even a pale shadow of my vision. Although I found many good ideals including freedom, democracy, and equality, still the spiritual part was missing. While I was searching for the rest of my wish, unexpectedly came the rude awakening with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Never can I forget this day. Thousands lost their lives, thousands lost their jobs, and everybody lost his peace. It was beyond imagination, hearts were broken and eyes were tearful. Being an American and a New Yorker, I was part of it all, the shock, the agony, the depression and the sense of lost security. But in the middle of this tragedy and through my suffering came the added load of being an Arabic American.

Because many of the terrorists were Arabs, many Americans started to consider all the Arabs were responsible for this attack and translated their feelings into hate crimes against the Arabs and anybody who looked like them. Thus, I was struggling in two fronts. One of them was dealing with the attack that threatened our homeland and the other was suffering from the feeling of being guilty with no reason but being an Arab. I was so scared that I stayed home for a whole week. I only watched the news on television. Eventually I had to leave home and carry on with my life. During that time, I was even afraid to speak Arabic with my daughter in the streets so nobody would hurt us.

Since that day, I realized the painful truth that my dream does not exist in reality. Every spot in the globe has its own share of trouble and conflict. There are children without food, shelter, or family. There are wars, refuges and terrorism.

In the end, I am still living with hope to find any beam of light that leads to my dream of peace and love, because if I stop dreaming, I might stop breathing as well.

Eman Saad
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult and Continuing Education, Region 4

Reaction and Recovery

The September 11th attack was such a bad thing that I will never forget it. My first reaction was fear and shock because when I heard and saw the news, I knew so many people died by the hijacked airplanes. I felt sad; the day after New York's World Trade Center was leveled in a terrorist attack, firefighters raised a defiant American flag on the smoking rubble of the twin towers. Across the country, millions of people have followed suit, with flags on their homes, in a shop windows, or high in their hands. We fly the flags to honor the victims and show our shared determination to overcome the worst act of terrorism ever committed on U.S.A. soil; after all, I cannot believe that in this wonderful world there exist those kinds of people who do such heinous crimes. America was in chaos; consequently, we try to do something to recover the calm. However, we are under pressure. As a result, the U.S.A. government started retaliation against the people who caused this horrible destruction.

Ingrid Padilla
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult and Continuing Education, Region 4

Unexpected Disaster

On 9-11-01 when I got out from the Times Square station, I saw people looking at the T.V. screen and I could not understand what had happened. I stood on the street for a moment and finally I decided to ask someone what had happened. A person shouted: "An airplane flew into the Twin Towers."

In class, we heard it was a big tragedy; the Twin Towers had collapsed because of a terrorist attack and the symbol of New York City had been destroyed.

It was a big shock and people were in a state of panic. Even though the trapped people were hundreds of feet above the ground, they jumped through the windows into noxious gray ash and debris to a sure death. The survivors were running, shouting and crying into the chaotic situation. The firefighters and policemen hurried to rescue the people and numbers of them did not get out from the Towers. Furthermore, they were buried under the rubble. The efforts of the emergency vehicles were blocked due to lack of visibility.

After this horrible tragedy, the families of those who were missing held photographs of their loved ones eager to find their names at emergency sites and hospitals with hopes of finding them to appease their grief. When I heard that almost 6,000 innocent people were missing, I was frightened.

In addition, I was afraid that a Third World War would ensue since I do not have good memories of World War II. At that time, the economy was low, the factories were closed and the lands were devastated because men were at the battle front fighting the Germans. It was so difficult to live with food stamps, standing in long lines to get one pound of potatoes and many people contracted tuberculosis.

I believe that hand in hand, we can build a better world filled with love and tolerance and that we can rebuild the downtown area and construct a memorial to those who died.

Zohra Guernah
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult and Continuing Education, Region 4

Comparing Two Cities

I am the lucky one because in my life I have lived in the two very different cities. This experience generated a much-varied life style for me. These two cities are very different from one another and have caused much comfort, tumultuousness, happiness and sadness. Both of them are located on different continents. Moreover, there are many aspects that can be contrasted between them.

I was born and grew up in a city on an island in the South Pacific Ocean. Its name is Ping Tong. I was there because God sent me there. Now I am living in New York City and I am struggling to survive, but it is my choice not that God sent me.

If I contrast the two cities, we can find out many different and interesting aspects between them. For example, New York is the richest city in the world, and Ping Tong is not. New York is a really metropolitan city and Ping Tong is only somewhat bigger than a town. Economically and commercially, the two cities are at opposite condition. The transit system, medical care and jobs market are very different from one another.

In addition to all these differences, New York also is a multi-ethnic city, which makes New Yorkers proud. How to put multi-ethnic societies on the right track and treat them in the proper ways is a tough job for authorities and communities. I have learned some bad things about different ethnic groups or races concerning amongst them. My native city of Ping Tong does not have this problem because it is a single ethnic society. However, in my opinion, multi-ethnic societies are better than single ethnic societies: after all, today there is a tendency for people to communicate more with other ethnics.

In conclusion, I do not think our world should be made up of only one culture: our world should no be homogenous. I am pleased and proud that I have lived in these two diverse cities, and it is difficult to say which one is better than another is.

Shannon Chiu
NYC Board of Education
Office of Adult and Continuing Education, Region 4

September 11th

The event of 9/11 has made me very sad, sad not because we lost a great symbol of this city but of the lives and memories that were lost with it when the twin towers came tumbling down. Even though I never met the people who died in the twin towers, I feel for the families' grieves. Losing a loved one, whether it is a parent, a wife, a husband, a child or a friend can be very traumatizing. All that is left are my memories of where the twin towers used to stand.

I can still remember the first time I laid eyes upon the towers. It was a sight to be seen! Then there were the times when I took my son to the twin towers I can never go back and physically touch or see the towers again. It is a tragedy, but as always, New York and I will find a way to continue on.

Kam Wau Lee
Chinese American Planning Council

Reflections on September 11th

On that day, I was in Houston at my sister's house. About 9:30am, my sister called me from work. She told me the World Trade Center was on fire. I turned on the television. I saw the second plane fly into the Twin Towers. I didn't believe that's true. But every channel was talking about the World Trade Center.

At that moment, I wanted to go back home in New York. All of my relatives told me not to take the plane yet because it's dangerous. But I didn't listen to them. I just wanted to go home. There were no flights for the next few days.

When I finally got home, I went to the place of the World Trade Center and I heard five thousand people were missing. I was feeling very sad. When people asked for donations, I was happy to give. My son helped at the Red Cross by translating Chinese to English on his free time. We just wanted to help New York City as much as we can.

Mei Kuen Kwai
Chinese American Planning Council

Life After September 11th

The terrorists attacked on American on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. It was a horrible day.

On that day, two airplanes crashed into the Twin Towers. Then, Twin Towers collapsed, resulting in the deaths of thousands of our city's innocent and brave souls in the most horrific ways. Many people were also missing.

All people of the United States were very upset and we wailed. People prayed for those who died, and they will always remember that day.

Since September 11th, many people lost their jobs and many companies closed.

The restaurants had fewer customers in Chinatown, and had fewer tourists. New York City was very quiet. Many factories were closed. My factory had less work and eventually had no work to do.

The commercial and aviation industries lost a lot of business because of September 11th. I believe with our government's support, New York City will recover soon.

Yan Yan Tan
Chinese American Planning Council

Come Back, Our Love

I worked in a gift shop of observation deck on WTC No.2 building before last September 11th. I liked my job. I liked this beautiful place. Every day I stood on the top of the world, and I looked attentively at many people who came from all over the world. They were funning; they were gazing around the New York City; they were speaking; they were taking photos; they were immersed in New York's sunshine. At that time, I would always feel very happy too. What a great place!

At 8:45 on September 11th morning, I went to work by an elevator. When I was between 103rd and 104th floors, I suddenly felt a very strong shock. The elevator stopped, then it went down by itself (It was said that its safety system was working automatically). At 44th floor lobby I went out of the elevator. I saw many people waiting. They looked anxious and uneasy. Immediately I understood some serious things had happened. Under the firemen's help, I came out of the building. Then I saw the buildings on fire. I was shaking like a leaf in the wind. It was too fearful to be forgotten forever for me.

On the evening of April 10th, I went back there again. I saw two big light pillars in the sky. Now there were no sun statue, no fountain, no flowers and no Twin Towers. I can't stand on the top of them to see those glamorous sights anymore: Wall Street, East River, Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty which stands for Freedom, Ellis Island, Atlantic Ocean, the beautiful coast of Hudson River, the Empire State Building... cement forest, Central Park and almost all of Manhattan. The scenes would not be coming as the same as before. But I saw mementoes of hero. I saw many people's pictures of whom died in the disaster. I saw ruins of the buildings. I saw disconsolate crowd. I only felt so much sadness and so much rage. However, New York needs us to be strong!

In fact, New York is the largest city in the United States, one of the biggest ports in the world, the center for culture, art and business. The World Trade Center stood for New York. It was the landmark of N.Y. People like it, miss it, because it stood for New York's boom. Wherever I was, either in New Jersey or in Bay Ridge beach, if only I saw them, I would be full of confidence and hope, and I would not lose my way.

Without question, the spirit of New York will revive again. It will be stronger, safer, and more beautiful. It will make Downtown flourish. We are waiting with hopes.

Xi Chen
Chinese American Planning Council

Twin Brothers

My brother and I
grew up together
Beside the river
We had our flag
We were like princes.

My brother and I
We lived to see the stars
In the dark blue of the sky.

The air brought the clouds and rain
The rain wet our bodies
The sun colored our eyes
The rainbow covered everybody.

A coward was sent to kill us
But he didn't warn us
We saw our airplanes
How they flew near to the sky
In a few minutes many people died.

Patricia Mendoza
Adult Learning Center
Lehman College
Teacher: Diane Reynolds

That Day

That morning woke with a song of the birds, with the children's smile, with the happiness of the start of a new day.

Above
the sun wrapped up warmly and cheerfully on our home,
exalting the majesty of our buildings, parks and streets.
Peacefully the birds played with the soft breeze.

Suddenly,
a thunderstorm to shock our senses, to shake our home... and
eventually we were covered by the uncertainty, the tears, the anger,
marking a profound pain in our lives.

But,
the effect of this pain was the national union, that
encouraged the spirit, and forever will be present in our hearts.

Now,
we are ready to continue praising and working for this great Nation of Liberty,
and
11 is the patriotic renaissance for this glorious Nation!

Sonia Villagomez
Adult Learning Center
Lehman College
Teacher: Diane Reynolds

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

I came to America two and a half years ago. I always knew that America was a free, independent, and powerful country. I got a job with medical benefits for my family. My husband got sick, he got medical help, had four operations, and his health improved. After he felt much better, he got a job.

On September 11, I was in a state of shock. I was afraid for America. I wanted to take revenge, destroy the people who changed our lives forever. I support America wholeheartedly. I agree with the actions of our President. I want to be helpful in any way I can.

Svietlana Aranchy
Agudath Israel of America

The World Trade Center Tragedy

September 11th, 2001 was an unfortunate day for the U.S.A. The terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center with airplanes. The buildings fell down. Many people disappeared without a trace. Many companies disappeared.

Now that I am unemployed, I have begun to learn English. I have been out of school for forty years now, and now I've come back to school again. I believe the people of U.S.A. will rebuild their homeland.

Man Dat Choi
Brooklyn Chinese-American Association

As I stared at the World Trade Center on that clear blue sky morning of September 11th, tears filled my eyes. My heart was beating at a faster rate than normal. I truly was overwhelmed by the devastation of that day.

Since September 11th, I have been affected emotionally and psychologically. That devastation caused me to recall the moment when I had a battle with claustrophobia. I've gone through being trapped in an elevator with other people. It's the idea of not knowing when you'll get out because it's such a confined area. For myself, I've overcome the stress of being claustrophobic. That incident of being trapped is so clear in my mind today. At that very moment the pain of knowing what those people felt being trapped inside that building was more than I could bear. Up to this very day my friend and I sit on the front steps of her house looking for her daughter-in-law to come home from work. Just the other day we held each others' hands and started praying. While looking down the street we knew in our hearts that she's gone. My friend's daughter-in-law was trapped and couldn't get out on September 11th, like so many others.

Augustine Davis
Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Women

Since September 11th, Everything Is Different ...

Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Women

Amyria: At work my husband finds an envelope. In the envelope is $200. A note says, "We love you. Be safe. Take a taxi."

At school, they call my (preschool aged) little son, "Little Bin Laden." He is so sad.

Feyzah: No (special) problem. I feel bad.

Jawarah: (Her brother is a NYC Police Officer.) Everything is different, especially friends. My American friend, before she hugs me, calls or comes over to my house. Now she does not call anymore. Her kids, my kids (were) friends. My kids are sad. It hurts.

We never go to Manhattan anymore. It is too sad.

At 7 (in the morning) the police come to my house. They want my son. But he is in preschool. They were looking for an adult with the same name.

Katiba: Neighbors stop talking to me.

Leyaqah: Nothing happened to me, but life is not the same.

Martina: I am sad.

Naemah: (Her husband and brother-in-law were chefs at Windows on the World. They were out of work for more than 2 months. Two women wanted to fight with her 13 year-old daughter on the bus. The driver said to the people on the bus, "Get off!" Someone on the bus called the police.) The police take my daughter home. The police say to the women, "Next time you go to jail."

Saada: (Her oldest son is a US Marine.) My neighbors are good to me. All came to my house.

Taqwa: Did not go outside for a week. Her husband got everything for her. People called them to say, "Tell us if anyone bothers you."

Warda: Before it was okay. (After September 11th) People at the drug store said, "Go back to where you came from." Men in a car yelled and made me cry. (Her children did not go out for three days.) But the school called to say, "Come to the office if there is a problem."

At work, people told my husband, "Let us know if anyone bothers you." My daughter in college has friends. They also say, "Let us know if anyone bothers you."

Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Women

How The WTC Affected Me

The attack on September 11th has made me feel more compassionate, but I feel unsafe on public transportation and violated when I travel.

Now I have more compassion for people, because so many people were hurt, and many lost their lives. Some lost their jobs, some lost their minds. I really feel very hurt to know that children will have no parents' just because of some people doing evil.

On public transportation I now feel very nervous and afraid. Why? Because I feel the trains are not safe any more. Terrorists can be aboard the public train anyplace and attack at any time, and the train will be stopped wherever they attack.

When I travel from state to state, my privacy is invaded when they scan my suitcase, shoes and pocketbook. I think this is really out of order. People do evil things. I feel sad and unsafe.

Rebecca Briggs
Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Women

The tragedy that happened in the World Trade Center was an awakening. Since the September 11th attack, I've felt more vulnerable because I could have been there. It changed my whole outlook on the value of one's life: you're here today and gone tomorrow.

And that's just the way I felt when I was home that horrifying day, sitting at my table drinking tea, watching that attack on television. An unbearable idea entered my thoughts: I'm not safe at home or anywhere. I could have gone shopping for shoes in that area because there is a shoe store that I go to that has sales all the time. I could have stopped at a little coffee shop in the World Trade Center and have coffee and a doughnut waiting for the shoe store to open and not being aware that anything like this could occur. I'm sure the people working there had no indication that something like this could happen, and that their lives would be gone within seconds.

The tragedy of the World Trade Center made me really value my priorities and not to take anything for granted. I always tell my daughter, my grandchildren, and sisters and brothers how much I love them. Now it's so important to me that they know this because I don't know how long we are going to be in each others' lives.

Rose Taylor
Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Women

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

September 11th, 2001 will be the saddest day for all the people in the United States. It will be an unforgettable day in my life.

I remember that early morning after I dropped my sons at school, I drove my car to Manhattan with my friend. I drove along Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn.

Traffic went so slow that morning and we didn't notice anything unusual. Minutes later I saw a thick, orange layer in the sky. First thing that came to my mind was, it must be a fire around the area. Many fire trucks and ambulances passed by us on the way.

Immediately, when I took Exit 278 we saw something that we could hardly believe. The Twin Towers were on fire. I was stunned and shocked by this horrible scene.

My friend Terry turned on the radio and we heard that terrorists attacked the World Trade towers. I saw a woman crying and screaming on the sidewalk. She was very upset.

After the tragedy happened, everything seems to be changed for me. I was so concerned about the school's safety. I became so anxious and alert everyday after I dropped my sons at school.

I dare not travel by train anymore because I am afraid there might be a bomb in one of the cars. I try to avoid going through tunnels and over bridges also.

I hope this kind of tragedy will never ever happen again in the United States or any country in the world.

Kah Lai Chong
Discipleship Educational Center

On September 11, 2001

On September 11, 2001 our new world was a small town with our huge main street where everyone suddenly knew everyone else, wore the same colors, and felt like family. It's hard to imagine we could have huddled comfortably in such close quarters for very long. The tragedy that occurred on September 11th has made the American people prove to the world the meaning of their nation.

Maxwell Ekpu
East Side House Settlement

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

September 11, 2001 has gone down in history. The day affected everybody, especially my family and me. We were so afraid to come out because we were so nervous. My home is very close to the World Trade Center. The day it happened I was at home with my mother. My cousin who lives down the street came running to tell me that the Trade Center was on fire. Immediately, I grabbed my coat and we ran to the roof to see what was going.

I was so shocked to see the very important building on fire. What I saw made me cry. I saw people jumping out the windows to save their lives. It was a horrible day.

Maribel Rodriguez
Henry Street Settlement

On September 11th 2001 I went to work at 8am. I work for elderly and disabled people. Early in the morning every body was busy doing their work; some people were watching T.V. Channel 5 morning news. I started to work as usual. My client's name is Raya. Suddenly we heard a big noise. Then she looked frightened I asked her "What is going on, are you OK?" Then she said I don't know. In the meantime, her telephone rang. She received the phone call but she could not talk for a few minutes. She was crying. Then I asked her what was wrong. She just showed me the television because she could not speak. We could see the World Trade Center from the windows. Smoke and fire came out from the affected building and some people tried to save their lives by jumping from the windows. We were watching. Suddenly another plane hit the second building. At that time, we saw how terrorists attacked our country.

Prova Gonsalves
Henry Street Settlement

The World Trade Center tragedy affected me greatly, to see that there are people in the world with that much hatred in them. With all the tragedy and events that happened in the world, that one really affected me. Its tragedy made me look at life and the people that I come in path with totally differently. I try very hard to understand people with different beliefs than I have. I also search for love inside of myself for the next human being.

Deborah Davis
Henry Street Settlement

In Memory of the World Trade Center

On September 11, 2001, I had taken my daughter to school when I heard a lot of noise in the street. I went outside and I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it for myself. I thought about all of the people in the buildings and my son's mentor, Kenny, and his friends in there. I don't understand why someone would kill innocent people like that. What was in those peoples' minds when they did something like that? And now how long do we have to wait until something else happens to us? And why do people have to get hurt before they stop? Because this is ridiculous. People, we should love each other instead of hurting, and God bless America.

Since then, I have been trying to cope with things on my own. But when you meet people who remind you of someone that you got close to, it is very hard to forget, because my son's mentor was a beautiful person to us. He will be missed very much.

Theresa Williams
International Center for the Disabled

The Big Tragedy

I was angry at the terrorists for killing the people in the Twin Towers. On September 11, 2001, the terrorists used airplanes to hit the Twin Towers. The twin towers came tumbling down, killing lots of people in the buildings. The terrorists killed people on the airplanes, and I wonder why they would do that. I know a teacher that had a cousin in the building and a friend in the plane. They are still hunting for bodies. It might take two years or more.

Now we are at war with Afghanistan and we can't get to Bin Laden. I know of a friend who has a brother in the military. My friend is afraid to lose her brother. She was pretty upset at what had happened.

We are also fighting against a disease called anthrax that we don't know about, and it is killing people. Recently, a lady in New York City died of anthrax. She was 64.

The story is not over.

Marlon Ellis
International Center for the Disabled

Our Thoughts About the World Trade Center Disaster
September 17, 2001

International Center for the Disabled

Donald:

I never seen people come together like I seen come together before this tragedy.

Amelia:

It was just scary. I was close, even to see the smoke, people trying to get home.

Yasmene:

I was sleeping. My father called me, "The twin towers are on fire." I didn't believe it and went back to sleep. Then I turned on the news. I always read stuff like this but I never thought it was true.

Jackie:

I just feel very sorry for the people who passed. What about the people with no jobs now?

Delores:
There's a child today who doesn't have a mother or father.

Danny:
We are finally awake. We are aware that we are not safe anymore. That was the American Dream.

Marlon:
I can't believe my eyes.

Shirley:
I was shocked and upset.

Terry:
I am in a state of shock. I am recovering from sickness. There were people really close to me. I never thought people would take other peoples' lives.

International Center for the Disabled

Find Bin Laden, Dead or Alive

Hey, hey hi, hi
People, people were looking
To the sky, to the sky
With tears in their eyes
With Bin Laden on the rise

People walking around
With their head held high
Wondering, wondering
Where must I hide?
Wondering would we ever see
Planes back in the sky?

Yes, just keep hope alive
We're going to get Bin Laden
Dead or alive
If you just keep love alive

Bin Laden made a terrible mistake
By thinking he could attack
The United States

People of the United States
Got to keep hope alive
We're getting Bin Laden
Wherever he hides
God Bless America

Donald Green
International Center for the Disabled

September 11
Pain and Sorrow

On September 11, when I heard about the tragedy, everything came to a standstill for me. All I could think of was the people – that their lives were taken that morning. Little did they know when they woke up that morning that it was going to be their last day on earth. Every time I think about it, I get angry to think that people in the world are so evil, and they hate so much. Sometimes I wish there was more love in the world than all this hate. If people would learn to love each other and respect each other, the world would be a better place.

Marcia Griffith
International Center for the Disabled

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

In the morning, I was driving on the highway to Lutheran Hospital and saw dense smoke coming from the two towers.

When I got to the hospital I went to the eighth floor I stood by the window and I saw the buildings collapse. It was terrible.

When I got home, I turned on my television. My family and I watched TV the rest of the day. My oldest daughter and my oldest granddaughter worked near these buildings. We were very worried. But they called and said that they had arrived home safely. We called our friends and asked them how they felt. We listened and watched the news all the time over the next few days.

I think September 11 is a day that will never be forgotten. This did not only affect the lives of the people who died as a result, it also hurt the whole world. The war on terrorism continues and the outcome is still unknown.

Anna Fabrikant
Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst

My Impression of September 11

On September 11th, terrorists from "Al Quaeda" declared war on the US and the peace of people all over the world. This is an objective fact.

September 11th was a good warm day. The sky was as blue as a spring afternoon. I woke up in a great mood because the next day was my oldest daughter's birthday. She was going to be 20 years old. I was busy with the preparation of gifts for my daughter. Suddenly the phone rang. It was my wife. Her voice was very emotional. She told me that some evil genius had destroyed the WTC. It would be better for us never to have seen this act. The bandits, like evil spirits, were going to see our fear and misfortune. It was bad luck for all American people and for me too. Who would have thought that such a thing could happen?! I was afraid that it was the beginning of World War III. How could less than twenty terrorists, without firearms do such a thing? Impossible!

We would like to have peace, but they would rather die than give up. The American Army will have to kill all the members of "Al Quaeda."

Leonid Grinberg
Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst

My Impressions of the World Trade Center Tragedy

My brother, Mikhail, called me in the morning on September 11th. He said "Watch TV, this is terrible." I switched on the TV. I saw terrible things. Both buildings of the World Trade Center were on fire. Then they collapsed. Many people were running and crying. I saw clouds of dust on TV and from the windows of my apartment. On the street there was a smell of burning. It was terrible.

The World Trade Center was not only a symbol of the United States, but a symbol of prosperity for the whole world.

This act of terrorism caused a lot of damage to the US economy. Many people lost jobs.

This act of terrorism demonstrated that oceans cannot save the situation. The whole world has to struggle against terror. All the world supports the USA in this struggle.

Nokhim Kotlyar
Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

The tragedy that occurred September 11th affected me in so many ways that I can't even begin to explain.

It was very horrifying for me because never in real life have I experienced a tragedy like that.

When I think about those people who were unfortunate to lose their lives, I can understand the pains and sufferings of their families.

I feel very fortunate to still have my family. I try to appreciate everything in my life, whether it is good or bad and not take people or anything for granted. I even try to go the extra mile for someone if it makes that person happy.

I try not to hold grudges, not to be vindictive or petty. I try to mend broken fences with people I have issues with.

I realize that the many things that we make a big deal about are not that important.

Onika Softleigh
Ladies Committee for Puerto Rican Culture

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected me

Even since I was a little girl, my dream was to come to America, the land of the free.

But on September 11th 2001, a tragedy hit New York City. The World Trade Center was destroyed due to a terrorist attack. On that morning, I turned my TV on. All I could see were planes crashing to the World Trade Center, causing the buildings to collapse. Thousands of people were dead; hundreds of them were still missing. When I saw this, all I could feel was pain and hurt in my heart.

The World Trade Center tragedy affected me in a fearful way. Why? Because of this tragedy there is constant fear growing within myself and among other people as well. It's like no one knows what's going to happen next. Because of the tragedy, it has affected the economy of the country, causing many people to lose their jobs, automatically affecting everyone living in the United States.

Diane Richards
Ladies Committee for Puerto Rican Culture

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

Since September 11th, I have realized that the world is full of good and bad people. September 11th, 2001 was frightening to me especially when I saw people jumping from the Twin Towers. It was more like a war zone! At the first, I thought I was watching a movie.

When I realized that this was real, I wondered who on earth could have done such a thing. That day I was scared to death because I had never seen anything so horrible as that. I couldn't sleep that day. It was so scary!

It was not easy to take my mind off the attack on the World Trade Center. There was so much anxiety in people's behavior and anger from innocent people. I was so scared of going to tall buildings that I kept having thoughts in me that the buildings might collapse. I just tried to avoid thinking about what happened and move on but is hard to imagine that those giant towers are gone.

Yetunde Ayoade
Ladies Committee for Puerto Rican Culture

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

I went to the Dominican Republic to attend my mother's funeral on September 6, 2001. On September 11, I was there with my family. That day at noon, a lady came to see us and said: "Oh my God, something happened in New York today." I didn't pay attention to what she was saying until I saw on TV men and men jumping out of the windows of the Twin Towers. For a moment, I thought this was a movie and I told my sister to please change the channel. The lady insisted and said, "don't you see what's going on?" "Oh my God I said" and from that time I felt that I can't be the same person as before. Now, I understand what I have inside of me since that terrible tragedy. When the media said, "we are at war!" I worried because part of my family, my husband, my son and grandchildren are in New York. I felt I could fly to New York to die together with part of my family and the New Yorkers. I love New York so much because it's the city that opened the door to me.

Brasilisa Bravo
Marymount Manhattan College Institute for Immigrant Concerns

It is still very painful to talk about that tragedy. I used to work in downtown Manhattan and I loved this area. I knew every building of the World Trade Center and I liked the place and I always enjoyed going there. It was like a small city with offices, banks, shops, restaurants, theaters, subways, businesses, leisure time, and the favorite place of many Americans. A lot of wonderful events happened in the Winter Garden of the World Financial Center, such as the flower show,, art exhibitions, and concerts. People used to walk around, shop and watch performances of popular musicians and singers and enjoy the festive atmosphere. You could see the Twin Towers from any site of New York. When I looked at them, I always thought about how simple and perfect they were.

Now everything is very different. We have been attacked by terrorists. They have wiped out this beautiful place along with thousands of innocent people. The skyline of New York has changed forever and our lives have also changed. All seven buildings of the World Trade Center are gone. Now it's a very sad place named "Ground Zero." That heartbreaking story affected me very deeply and it will be with me for a long time. I often think about what I would like to see in the future and how we can rebuild that place. In my opinion, something similar to the World Trade Center should be built as well as a memorial for the innocent victims of the tragedy. I hope that it would be an array of buildings with businesses and cultural activities that are as "powerful a symbol of New York" as the World Trade Center was.

Anna Elzon
Marymount Manhattan College Institute for Immigrant Concerns

I think everybody reacted differently to what happened on September 11. Most people were very sad and shocked. The fact is that everybody will always remember that day. I will remember it as a nightmare. I couldn't believe that everything that happened was for real. Of course, war, tragedy, death and suffering have always been a part of our world and human history, but as progress and development go on, it should change the way in which people find the solutions to their problems with others. But the September 11 act showed me that I was wrong. Some people are still wild and bloodthirsty. I have to consider that I feel much closer to Americans and clearly understand that I'm a part of this country and I love the USA as my motherland. I truly sympathize with those who lost their lives and their loved ones, and I am proud of the American people who can find the strength to help others, and live their own lives. I hope it will never happen again.

Tatiana Zaitseva
Marymount Manhattan College Institute for Immigrant Concerns

One beautiful morning, I woke up and did my routine schedule. At 8:45 A.M. on September 11, 2001, I left my house and took the bus to my office. When I got into the building, my friend told me that commercial jets crashed into a building. I did not know which building was crashed by the planes. After work, I went home and I turned on the TV. Surprisingly it was the World Trade Center. I could not believe what I saw and I had a restless night. I watched the TV repeatedly and I noticed that it was not an accident. The terrorists had an intention to destroy America. The images could not escape from mind until now. The planes crashed into the buildings, the people jumping out of them, a hot fireball sweeping out from the crashed site, the people on the street were full of panic and running around chaotically. I have never seen that kind of tragedy in my life. I believe that America is not only the land of hope for everybody, regardless of age, gender and color but also the land of freedom which gives us equal opportunity. Americans want to share their blessings with the needy and help people. God bless America!

Thet Thet Han
Marymount Manhattan College Institute for Immigrant Concerns

The first day I came to the U.S. I thought that all the problems of my life were solved forever. But it was not like I thought. When I came to the U.S., I was very happy, but I didn't know about my future. I started a new life. I couldn't speak any English. But the big tragedy occurred on September 11th. On that day, my sister and I were on our way to college on the subway. Suddenly, a woman screamed and said: "Oh my God, look at it!" I quickly stood up and looked out. I saw smoke leaving from one of the Twin Towers. I was surprised and then I asked my sister why there was not an airplane with firefighters putting out the fire. At that time, we saw an airplane flying toward the Twin Towers. We couldn't see the difference between a passenger plane and a firefighting airplane. But, to our surprise, it was a terrorist attack.

Maryam Shinzai Wardak
Marymount Manhattan College Institute for Immigrant Concerns

How the World Trade Center Tragedy Affected Me

Since Sept. 11th my life has been different. My son lost his job and his house. So he is back home.

I do appreciate more. Before I didn't care, but since that tragedy I kiss my kids every day before I leave the house and when I come back home, I thank God for a beautiful day.

My friend lost her son and every time she sees me she always talks and cries about her son. It is very sad. It hurts because I don't even know what to say to her.

Even though times are very hard and people can't find jobs, everybody is polite to each other and appreciates everything about life.

Yolanda Figueroa
New Horizons Adult Education Program

How the World Trade Center Affected Me

The World Trade Center attack affected me very much. The reason it troubled me is because my family and I work in the area. I work just blocks from where the World Trade Center used to be. I was on my way to work that day. When I came up from the train station, the first plane hit. I was shocked. I went to my job and the second plane hit. After that the buildings fell. I was scared. They were not letting people get on the train, so I had to walk over the Williamsburg Bridge. I was really scared. I thought the bridge might blow up or something. I got home and laid down.

I called to see if my mother got home ok. When I got in touch with my mother, it was like two hours later. She had to walk over the Williamsburg Bridge also. She said when she got to work the first building had already fallen. She went upstairs to see if anyone was up there. Everyone was leaving when the second building fell. She said there was so much dust and things flying around she couldn't breathe. She ran into a store and someone gave her something to drink and wiped her face. After that they had to walk over the bridge.

That is how the World Trade Center attack affected my family and me. I am so glad we are here today. I feel so sorry about all the lives that were lost.

Pamela Bell
New Horizons Adult Education Program

How the World Trade Center Affected Me

I have lived in America for six years. Two years ago, my husband and I went on a trip around New York City. I admired by Manhattan on the eve of Christmas. We were delighted by the "Twins" the symbol of wealth and prosperity of New York and maybe of the whole America. We went to the observation stand of the WTC Our guide told us about the terrorist act in the garage of the WTC in 1993.

September 11, 2001 was a regular working day for many people and me, as well. My husband called at my work and told me to switch on TV. I could not believe my eyes when I saw one of the twin towers was on fire, caused by a terrorist attack. All of a sudden another plane crashed into another twin tower. I was shocked. I started to cry and pray for the people who used to work in both towers.

This day was a tragedy for the whole country and perhaps to many other countries all over the world. Recently I read an article in the newspaper about the children who were born after that tragedy. These children couldn't meet their fathers because all of the fathers were killed in this attack. Many of the children were named after their fathers.

I often talk with my grandson about September 11. I want him to understand that day forever. I want him understand that no one can destroy America and its people. We are a United Nation.

Ida Blinetskay.
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach

World Trade Center Tragedy

When my family moved to America from Ukraine a year ago, my life was divided into two parts: THERE and HERE. My relatives, my friends, the city which I liked very much stayed THERE. HERE we started from the very beginning.

My first real acquaintance with New York was when we visited the World Trade Center. This place astonished me right away. It was the most magnificent place I've ever seen. I fell in love with that area. From this time on I always insisted on our "exploring" of Manhattan starting from WTC. I could see friendly and happy people and did not want to leave that place.

On September 11, 2001 when the WTC was crashed, all people were shocked. I watched TV and could not believe my eyes. How did they dare?! Are they human? All of them who organized and did it could not be called people.

The day of the tragedy proved that Americans loved their country. On that day I understood that Americans were proud of the country. They demonstrated to the whole world that they were not afraid of anyone or anything and that they were ready to fight for their Motherland. Americans became closer to me.

Now I'm sure I want to be one of them. I'm waiting for the day when I become a citizen of the United States. And if my new country is in any danger I will bear arms on behalf of the United States.

Tamara Onypchuk
Shorefront YM -YWHA of Brighton and Manhattan Beach

Tragedy of September 11th

I came to New York two years ago from Belarus. I'm a babysitter. My husband works as a paramedic for the Fire Department of New York City.

When the tragedy took place, my husband had day off. He called me and told me that something had happened near the World Trade Center that was why he had to go to his Fire Department. At that moment he did not know what really happened. After that there was a call from the father and later on from the mother of the boy I took care of. They gave me a little bit of real information. I was shocked.

I realized that my husband could be killed or injured. I did not get any news from him for several days. Those days were like a nightmare. On September 11 my husband could not get to his station in South Bronx because public transportation did not work. So he went to the nearest EMS station. The first ten days after the

tragedy he worked on 12-hours schedule without any break. On September 18 he worked on Ground Zero. He, together with his co-workers, was looking for the remains of the victims. There were a lot of killed fireman and policemen as well as civilians.

My friends and relatives from Belarus called us. They were very upset. They asked one and the same question: How could that be? Who is to blame?

Lyudmila Sobiyeva
Shorefront YM -YWHA of Brighton and Manhattan Beach

Terrorist Attack

My family arrived in New York from Uzbekistan (the former Soviet Union) in summer 2001. We were very happy. Our dreams came true.

We left our native country because we were afraid for the life of our children and our own lives. The terrorist attack took place in Uzbekistan in 1999. People were in shock. They were afraid to leave their houses.

But our happy life in America ended on September 11, 2001. We found out about the terrorist attack. Now it happened in the center of Manhattan. How could it be?

Thousands of people were killed or injured. People lost their friends, parents lost their children, wives lost husbands, and husbands lost wives. It was a shock for everyone. But Americans were not afraid of the terrorist. They united. They were ready to fight against terrorism.

We realized that we could not hide from terrorists. People all over the world must unite. United we stand. We should fight against terrorism, otherwise there will be not future for our children, no peace and happiness in the world.

Olga Teslova
Shorefront YM -YWHA of Brighton and Manhattan Beach

September 11, 2001

The Twin Towers of the WTC were the symbol of financial power and global business. There were trading, banking, and insurance companies from all over the world. The WTC attracted tourists from different countries. No one could even imagine that such tragedy could ever happen in America. It could be anywhere but not here.

In the morning of September 11th, 2001 four airplanes were hijacked by the terrorists. Two of the planes crashed into the Twin Towers of the WTC in New York City. Two 110-story towers collapsed.

Around fifty thousand people worked in those two buildings. Many of the people had just come to work. Some were able to get out of the buildings using stairs or elevators and saved their lives. But a lot of people were killed or injured. Hundreds of firefighters and policemen died trying to save others. Thousands of volunteers stretched their friendly hands: people donated blood, food, clothes, and money.

Normal life in the country was interrupted. But people of New York became like a large family. Unknown people helped each other. Everyone offered their support and blamed terrorism.

Our city looks different without twins. It looks like a large family without parents.

I'm sure people will always remember those who died in this tragedy. We could not be able ever forget the day of September 11, 2001.

Maria Stepanova
Shorefront YM -YWHA of Brighton and Manhattan Beach

On September 11th, when I came from school. I put on the news I heard one of New York's Landmarks had come down. I had become very afraid since. We all live in this country. I felt very sad when they said they found body parts of people. I think it's good to volunteer and help the community. It's better when we come together as a nation. I think this country is a place where opportunity grows. But there is too much crime. People take advantage of the freedom and do bad things. We need security for the freedom to protest the people of this freedom.

John Dorima
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Freddy Colon

What Brought Me to September 11th

I have two points of views about what happened on September 11th. First, before that black and horrible day, I never thought that terrible things could happen in this country. Before that day, I usually liked to go to anyplace without worry about anyone. But, after September 11th everything changed my life and everybody's life changed, nothing will be the same. I'm afraid to take the train, go to the mall or any crowded place, because I think that suddenly a crazy person could blow out himself or herself and kill and injure many innocent people.

The terrorism, made everyone feel insecure in this country. Even though the government says" We have to live a normal life like it was before," but I'm sure anyday the terrorist would strike against us again so I pray and God protect everyone and this country.

Carlos Romo
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Freddy Colon

How you feel after what happened to the World Trade Center?

The way I feel is very sad. I feel very sad because of loved ones, who could have been friends to us. To me every time the news show up I have lots of tears on my face. People say that why are people crying if we did not get to know them. I was crying so much for innocent ones who did not know what was going to happen. When I always go to work I talk about the World Trade Center. I am scared and I always will because next time it might even happens at your job, house or maybe a family members house too.

Ramon De Leon
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Freddy Colon

I feel very scared because since, they are terrorist, they can do anything and even kill themselves. I am also scared of the 4th of July that they might throw bombs and explode and we might die. That's what I am scare about the terrorist attack and be very alert of anything else. I also feel sad for the people that died in the twin towers and in the pentagon. Because they lost their families and their families lost them.

Juana Rodriguez
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Freddy Colon

I would like to express what I have been thinking after September 11th Right now in my life I feel like I am suffering from depression when thinking about September 11, I feel pain in my heart. I feel bad for all my fellow citizens who died. This whole situation was terrible to the US, and the rest of the nation. The reason is this was an attack of terrorism and many people from different nationalities died. I think all of this brought everyone into unity. It doesn't matter the color of our skin or who we are, we all have to help each other. I also think this is a time for everyone to be patriotic for the U.S. because we are all one. We should also defend our country no matter what for our liberty and for the good of our people.

José
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Freddy Colon

After September 11th everything changed many lives were lost. Children were left without parents many people lost their loved ones. It was a tragic incident. I want to tell all those that lost family and friends that there is a god that lives and will give strength to continue on.

Antonio Pantaleas
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Star Hope

On September 11th 2001

The 11th of September was tragic as much for the world in general as for New York City. This event affected people emotionally, socially as well as psychologically and emotionally.

Nobody could imagine, what happened in the World Trade Center: Where so many innocent people were victims of this terrorist attack.

Maria Del C. Romo
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Star Hope

On September 11th 2001

When World Trade Center happened. I knew that because was antennas were there for all T.V. I was at home cleaning then my sister called me she said "look at the news" I said "ok" When I turned on the T.V. to the channel I saw both of the twin towers fall down. People were crying and shouting and running for their lives.

On September 20, 2001 my mother was taking a shower she felt on the floor. She had a stroke because every time she watched T.V. she started to think about it. Then we took her to the hospital. After the World Trade Center everybody was calling me to see if I was ok and then I started to call everyone I know to see if they were ok.

In Manhattan on 14th street there are pictures of people dead on the wall or missing. Other people were giving flowers, poems, lighting candles, one of my friends were working on that day. She walked on the Manhattan Bridge to come to Brooklyn. That was a very said day 9/11/01.

Louisane Nazaire
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Star Hope

September 11th is a day of tragedy for New York and the world. The tragedy provoked by terrorism affected Manhattan and all New York. The twin towers the tourist attraction On the September 11th I was in my country with my family and friends. All day watched the news on T.V. When I was scared because my father worked close to the twin towers.

Mariana Piedra
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Star Hope

On September 11th 2001 when the World Trade Center happened. I was at home with my sisters' baby, my friend called me she said look at the news because some thing happened ok is it very bad I said. In Manhattan on 14th street there are pictures of people dead on the wall or missing other people were giving flowers poems, lighting candles one of my friends were working on that day she walked on the Manhattan Bridge to come to Brooklyn.

Monique Chery
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Star Hope

On September eleven was one of the worst days in the United States. A lot of people died in the tragedy, it was a period of fear for all people who are living in the United States. A lot of brave five man and offices left their family tried helping other people who were in danger but must of them died.

The World Trade Center, was one of beautiful buildings in New York City was destroyed because of these terrorist who are hated all good people in the world. It has been for me a period of gloomiest it was for the first time that I have been seen a tragedy of that kind. I had cried because every time I think of those person who are lost their lives in this condition, that give me a feeling how certain person over this world were because criminal.

I couldn't forget those children who lost their parents, and those brave five man and offices that left their families forever. It's hard to see innocent people lose their lives in this bad condition.

United States is a God's country when someone has problem with it you have problem with God. I know God accepted all people who are died in the tragedy the last of the days we'll meet them in the heaven with Jesus.

Briol Chery
NYC Board of Education, Region 9

September 11th was the most difficult day in my life. I was so afraid to walk home from the school. There only two blocks from my home and school on that day I felt those two blocks were like two miles. I was afraid to go outside for two weeks because I am muslin and I wear a scarf. I thought if I go outside someone would pull my scarf off, or do something to me. People think bad things about Muslims people and Islam. They think that Islam is religion of hate, but this is not true. Islam is the religion of peace. I feel sorry for the people that lost their lives and I wish for their families to be strong and happy. I wish for people to not use their religion to do bad things. I wish for people that are not Muslim to learn more about Islam.

Galila Twaiti
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Sharon Borakove

I was born during World War II. My parents talked to me about this terrible time very much. I understand why it was a terrible time. Millions of people were killed because it was a war. But now it was a peaceful time. The life of most of people was happy and calm.

Suddenly on September 11th terrorists wrecked our calm life. Of the beautiful building in Manhattan were destroyed, thousands of people were killed. Many families left their fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters, and friends. Many policemen firemen and volunteers, who worked at the first time after the catastrophe on Ground Zero, got sick now? Who can answer "why" and " for what" it happened?

Now many architects and sculptors offer their projects of restoration for ground Zero. It will take a lot of time and or city of New York will become one of the most beautiful places in the world. But we couldn't forget and forgive the terrorists and terrorism. We have to keep the peace of the world! All together and each of us.

Maya Nikolayeuskaya
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Sharon Borakove

Remembering September 11th on Memorial Day

September 11th would be a usual day for most of people in the world if this terrible thing didn't happen. I think Russian people took it a little differently than Americans, but we all understand how dangerous terrorism is.

I was still living in Russia at that time. A few hours after it happened I saw it on the news on TV. To be honest, I didn't even know that the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were in New York City, but when I got the phone call from my future husband he told me that something really bad happened. He asked me to get online for talking to him, so I did. While I was turning my computer on I realized that the thing I saw on the news was connected to the phone call. It was about 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning and he told me that he stayed home and didn't go to work because he got sick. He was so upset. I could feel it although he was 10,000 miles away from me. He told me that he was working in one of those building and now they are all gone. I could not even imagine what might have happened. I didn't want to think about that. We were talking for a few hours and I was trying to make him feel a little better. I just wanted to be with him so much.

I came to New York City in February 2002 and the first thing that we did was go to the Empire State Building. I was so impressed by New York – different country, different people, and different world. Now we are married and I am so thankful to god for saving my husband. I feel sorry for all the people who lost their lives or a loved one in that terrible tragedy.

My husband took me to the place where the twin towers used to be. He wished I could see them. I understand. I wish I could see them too. I believe that they were a symbol of greatness of the American nation. I have a hope to see them in the future, standing, lighting and representing the United States of America without a fear or doubt to face the world.

All I want is world peace and to live happily with my family in my new country.

Nataliya Petito
NYC Board of Education, Region 9
Teacher: Sharon Borokove

On September 11th

Since end of August, 2001 I had been visiting my sister in Pembroke Pines, Florida and I was going to return on September 11. Circumstances forced me to change the original day and I came back to New York on September 10th, the day before of the terrorist attack. Thanks God.

In the morning of September 11th, I was talking by phone with a priest of my parish and somebody interrupted our conversation to tell him there was an accident in one of the Twin Towers. After we finished our conversation I turned on the television and watched the terrible situation.

I tried to contact our families in the Dominican Republic because I supposed they probably had heard the news and were worried about us, but I could not reach them by phone. So I tried to find my sister through the internet and this was the way I was able to keep in contact with our families.

This day my husband began to work at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan so I was scared for him because I didn't know how near he was to the area. I also tried to contact him and fortunately he was far away from the World Trade Center, but anyway he came back to the house late at night because all doctors was required to stay at the hospital for any emergency.

We had never gone to the Twin Towers before, but on September 2000 my husband and I were visiting Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty and took some pictures. Curiously we took a picture from the boat with the Twin Towers behind us and the date was September 11th.

Denise D' Oleo
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Tim Reedy

On September 11, I was working in the factory. I was listening to the radio and then I heard the news. A reporter said the WTC towers are suffering an accident at first but then the commentator said that it was not an accident, that it was an attack. Then I felt very worried because my husband was working there. I called his job but I couldn't talk to him. Only his boss answered me and he said, "Don't worry. Your husband can't come to answer the phone right now because he is busy now."

Now I'm afraid. I never go there because I thought it was bad and terrible.

Emma Paguay
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Tim Reedy

9/11

At 9 in the morning a plane hit the building. I saw it and I was shocked.

My daughter is management at NYU Hospital. She was very, very agitated. Ambulances came again and again and again and again, with injured people. She called me crying and crying "It's too much, Mom." She saw too many injured people. It was too bad. She was upset. She did not eat or sleep for three days. Too many died.

Today I am still upset. In my brain I see so many people, women, children, running, walking.

Christian people, Muslim people are the same , good people and bad people in every religion. No good people every religion has. My English is little, but my feelings are very big. When I hear "Nine Eleven" it is still in my eyes.

Hanifa Begum
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Melissa Stephenson

On September 11, I was in the class. I was level one, my first day. At that time I couldn't understand. Tim was my first teacher. He spoke on September 11 about the attacks. He drew on the board. I was afraid in the class. When my was class finished I came to my home. I contacted my husband. "Where are my children?" he asked me. "I don't know." Already I was crying. My husband told me, "Don't worry they will be found. I will contact you. You stay at home. You never go out side." At that time my sister called me, "Where is your husband and children?" I said, "I don't know."

Selina Fazal
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Tim Reedy

On September 11th

I was waiting for my parents at my sister's home because 4 days later was going to be my wedding day. I came here with my sister and her husband on September 1st but my parents and the other family were going to come to America that day. They were waiting at the airport to get an airplane but the airplane was delayed while the airport staff announced, "We can't fly to America because America is under attack." So my parents went back home. Afterwards, they couldn't come to attend my wedding so I got married without my parents. After 10 days they come to America.

Kyung-seon An
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Tim Reedy

9/11

On 9/11 I went to Manhattan to look for a job. The train stopped at 34th Street. Everything was closed. I walked upstairs to the street. Everyone was crying. I was surprised listening to the radio on the street. I walked to La Guardia College with many people. It took two and a half hours to walk. I felt sad and afraid. Everybody did. Then I took the train to Jackson Heights. My daughter, 15 years old, was at home and said "Mommy, Mommy, what were you doing in Manhattan?"

Now I am still nervous. Everyone is nervous.

Maria Escobar
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Melissa Stephenson

On September 11 I was in a taxi coming to school. The driver told me an airplane hit the twin towers. When I was in the classroom at that time Bruce was my teacher. He said the twin towers had collapsed but I didn't understand what he said. I asked a classmate, "What does 'collapse' mean?" Then I understood. I felt very bad. I didn't believe it. I thought this is a big country and that couldn't happen. Then my class finished. I went to my house. I was worried about my husband. I called his job. He was well. The following days I felt sad and some times I cried. Now when I think about September 11, I feel sad. I will never forget that moment.

Dolores Tamay
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Tim Reedy

9/11

I was working on the roof of a sixth floor building beside a parapet wall in Queens. I saw a huge black smoke go up and heard a man on TV shouting.

I was excited and about senseless at the time I saw it collapse. I felt the earth shake under my feet and dropped the broken sky on my head. I was extremely sorry, what I could not express in language.

My Nephew called from London, "How are you?" "We are all well." And another nephew called from Virginia, "What is your condition?" "We are all OK." September 11 at evening we called Bangladesh to say we were all well. My Nephew works at the World Trade Center on the 85th floor. His boss sent him to another office with some documents at 8:15AM. My Nephew saw the building burning. We thought my nephew died. At night we found out his news. I will never forget September 11, 2001.

Today also I am feeling in a miserable condition. Now I am thinking the people who did this harmed the whole world.

Mohammed R. Kahn
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Melissa Stephenson

I Still Feel Bad

My boss came in and said leave work. Why? There is fire, fire. Fire where? The World Trade Center.

No bus, no train, nothing, only walk, everybody walked between Manhattan and Queens. Two and a half hours to walk, walk, walk.

I stopped at my house. No one was there, only me. No brother, no sister. I called on the cell phone. It did not work. I was panicked. My brother works in Manhattan. Two hours later he called me saying, "How do you feel? You OK?" He told me to wait in the house for a call from my sister. My sister did call saying "I am at Queens Plaza, OK, don't worry." Everyone in my family cries, cries, cries. My sister says maybe our Father thinks we are dead." I called my country. My Father said he watched the news, "What happened to you?" He said "Take care". "OK Father, don't worry, everyone is OK."

Now I feel very bad. For eight years I lived here, I never thought about the WTC.

New York is good for all the people. I don't understand why people did this. This is never for good, this violence. Never for good.

Patricia Cadena
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Melissa Stephenson

September 11

Before I came to U.S.A when I was engaged, my husband was always talking to me about the World Trade Center and he told me that the first thing he would do would be to show me New York from the top of the towers. But I guess I wasn't lucky because I arrived on September 10th. And they collapsed before I even saw them.

Last week I took pictures and Manhattan was behind me and when the pictures appeared I said, "Cool the pictures are very beautiful." But my husband said, "They're not because there are no towers in them."

Zaineb Jewad
EDGE, Forest Hills Community House
Teacher: Tim Reedy

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